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REVIEWS OF NEW BOOKS.

ROBIN HOOD.

A Lytell Geste of Robin Hode; with other Ancient and Modern Ballads and Songs relating to this celebrated Yeoman. Edited by J. M. Gutch, and adorned with Cuts by F. W. Fairholt. 2 vols. 8vo. Longmans.

It is an ungracious task to doubt the truth of harmless and popular beliefs, to create scepticism where credence confers gratification; but it is, nevertheless, a duty the critic and historian owe to the public and to themselves, not to admit too readily into their truthful pages the evidence of tradition, however supported by all but universal reputation and sympathy. It may be cruel to dissipate those pleasing phantoms of childhood, the memory of which so often follows us through life, raising around us at times the pageants and glories of ancient days; but it is sometimes necessary to make all considerations of this kind bow before the sacred majesty of truth. We fear some not very unimpartial process will, ere long, be effected with regard to the merry archer of Sherwood.

We confess we have our misgivings in more ways than one; but our readers will hardly bear, at first, the temerity of a sweeping opinion. We really tremble at our coming audacity, and almost regret the absence of Mrs. Gamp's teapot to strengthen our nerves before recording with Betsy Prig the tremendous assertion, "We don't believe there's no such a person." Robin Hood is now the Mrs. Harris of the public. They may talk of him, quote him, and shew us his portrait, his bones, and his chair; but we shall still side with Betsy Prig, unless some unexpected evidence of his reality should be discovered.

Robin Hood is said to have flourished in the time of Henry III., and to have performed his remarkable feats at the close of the thirteenth century. Yet he is not mentioned by any contemporary historian. The first authentic notice of him is given by Fordun, who, writing about 1310, observes, "Then, from amongst the dispossessed and the banished, arose that most famous cut-throat Robert Hood, and Little John, with their accomplices; whom the foolish multitude are so extravagantly fond of celebrating in tragedy and comedy, and the ballads concerning whom, sung by the jesters and minstrels, delight them beyond all others." Mr. Wright mentions good grounds for suspecting this passage to have been interpolated by Bowyer, who edited Fordun in the following century; but be this as it may, it is perfectly clear that in a question of this kind, Fordun's authority is not sufficient without confirming evidence. A character in Piers Ploughman says,

"But I kan rymes of Robyn Hode,
And Randolf of Chestre;
Ac neither of our Lord ne of our Lady
The leeste that ever was made."

We have, therefore, distinct proof that Robin-Hood ballads were popular in England in the fourteenth century. "These passages," observes Mr. Wright, "particularly that of Fordun, describe a cycle of poetry essentially popular, which originated with the people, and rested with the people, but of which, as it then existed, it has been supposed that we have no remaining specimen."

We look upon the evidence of Fordun as the only testimony of any importance as to the question of the historical reality of Robin Hood, and it altogether fails to convince us of its truth. With regard to the *Lytell Geste*, a poem of the fifteenth century, it is little less than absurd to call that

historical evidence. As well might we ground a history on the metrical life of Guy of Warwick. But we can hence gather a view of the popular character of Robin:

"Now a custom good had Robin Hood,
In lands both far and near,
Every day before he would dine
Three masses would he hear.
The one to worship the Father,
And one the Holy Ghost,
The third was of our dear Ladye,
For he loved her of all the most.
Robin, he loved our dear Ladye,
For dread of deadly sin;
For her sake would he no company harm
That any woman was in."

Robin Hood protected all honest good fellows; but the dignitaries of the church fared very ill with him, and he was always at war with the High-sheriff of Nottingham.

"Well shall we do, quoth Robin Hood,
Little care for that take thou;
But look that ye harm no husbandman
That tilleth with his plough.
Nor shall ye any good yeoman harm
That cometh by greenwood-tree;
Nor any good knight, nor any good squire,
That would a good fellow be.
But proud archbishops and bishops,
Them ye shall beat and bind;
And for the high-sheriff of Nottingham,
Ye shall ever hold him in mind."

The Robin-Hood ballads were made a vehicle for exhibiting the popular feeling against the tyranny of the nobility and clergy, and indeed for expressing abhorrence of almost every kind of corruption. The story of his succouring the poor knight, who had pledged his lands for 400*l.*, which would have been forfeited to a rich monastery had the money not been forthcoming by a certain day, is one of a numerous class of tales inculcating similar feelings. The characters of the monk and abbot are exhibited in a bad light, greedy and unjust, and, we need not add, ungenerous. The next tale is of a different class, and relates to "the proud Sheriff of Nottingham." Little John shot so well at an archery-meeting that the sheriff engaged him for a year as one of his followers. One day, the sheriff went to a hunt, leaving Little John in bed "till it was past the noon." Now our ancestors were early risers; and Little John, by this time sorely wanting his dinner, asked the steward or butler to supply him with his customary meal.

"Unnecessarily was the butler then,
As he stood there on the floor,
And started off to the buttery,
And there he shut fast the door.
Little John gave him a parting rap,
His back was high bent in twain;
If he should live a hundred years
He would scarcely go straight again."

The cook and butler do not appear to have been on the best terms—the former boldly espousing the cause of Little John.

"Little John ate, and Little John drank,
At pleasure a good full bout;
Now the sheriff had in his kitchen a cook
That was a bold man and stout.
I do avow, then said this cook,
Thou art the shrewdest hind,
In such a household as this to dwell,
And such a dinner to ask, and And!"

The cook was also a swordsman and archer, and tries his skill with Little John, who sustains his reputation so well that the cook is delighted, and gangs to the greenwood with him. Then the sheriff is brought before Robin Hood, and escapes with his life, on swearing he will be a good friend to him:

"Or let me go, said the sheriff,
For good saint Charity,
And I will be the very best friend
That ever was unto thee."

Swear me an oath, said Robin Hood,
An oath on this my brand,
Thou wilt not way-lay, nor do me harm,
By water nor yet by land.

And if that any of these my men
Thou findest by night or day,
Upon thine oath thou must swear to me
To help them as help you may.

Now the sheriff swore his good strong oath,
And went homewards sore to see;
And never had heap of mossy green stones
More smack of greenwood than he."

According to a curious early MS. in the British Museum, Robin Hood was born at Lockesley, in Yorkshire; or, "after others," in Nottinghamshire, in the time of Henry II., about the year 1160, and lived till the latter end of the reign of Richard I. No place of that name is now known, unless we may except Loxley, in Warwickshire, a small village, containing at present about 300 inhabitants. The ballad is most authoritative:

"In Lockesley town in merry Nottinghamshire,
In merry sweet Lockesley town,
There bold Robin Hood was born and was bred,
Bold Robin of famous renown."

According to Mr. Hall, "Robin Hood, or as some authors have it, Robert o' th' Wood, was born at Loxley Chase, near Sheffield, in Yorkshire, where the romantic river Loxley descends from the hills to mingle its blue waters with the Rivelin and the Don; a place well known to every grinder in Sheffield, and often alluded to in the poems of the people's laureat, Ebenezer Elliott, who is the owner of some land on the spot; but of which the last London editor of Ritson's collection of ballads could not tell the locality, and so, after an elaborate research, concluded that no place in that, or the neighbouring county of Nottingham, now retained the name."

The narrative then proceeds to tell us that he was of noble parentage, but so extravagant that he was compelled to sell his patrimony, and ultimately became an outlaw. "Then joining to him many stout fellows of like disposition, amongst whom Little John was principal, or next to him, they haunted about Barnsdale Forest, Clompton Park, and such other places. They used most of all shooting, wherein they excelled all the men of the land, though, as occasion required, they had also other weapons. One of his first exploits was the going abroad into a forest, and bearing with him a bow of exceeding great strength, he got into company with certain rangers or woodmen, who fell to quarrel with him as making show to use such a bow as no man was able to shoot with; whereunto Robin replied, that he had two better then that at Lockesley, only he bare that with him now as a birding bow. At length the contention grew so hot, that there was a wager laid about the killing of a deer a great distance off; for performance whereof Robin offered to lay his head to a certain sum of money, of the advantage of which rash speech the others presently took. So the mark being found out, one of them, they were both to make his heart faint and hand unsteady, as he was about to shoot, urged him with the loss or his head if he missed the mark. Notwithstanding, Robin killed the deer, and gave every man his money again, save to him which at the point of shooting so upbraided him with danger to lose his head. For that money, he said, they would drink together, and hereupon the other stomachs the matter; and from quarrelling they grew to fighting

Enlarged 60.]

with him. But Robin, getting him somewhat off with shooting, dispatched them, and so fled away; and then, betaking himself to live in the woods by such booty as he could get, his company increased to a hundred and a half; and in those days, whether they were favoured, or howsoever, they were counted invincible. Wheresoever he heard of any that were of unusual strength and hardness, he would disguise himself, and rather than fail, go like a beggar to become acquainted with them; and after he had tried them with fighting, never give them over till he had used means to draw them to live after his fashion."

The little chap-book prose history tells quite a different tale. According to this authority—we quote from a copy printed in 1759, not mentioned by Mr. Gutch—"his mother was the daughter of the right honourable the Earl of Warwick: his uncle was Squire Gamwell of Gamwell Hall. His father and mother lived in a place called Loxley, a little village adjacent to the forest of Sherwood. He was born in the reign of Henry II., and his father and mother were so fond of him, that they let him suck till he was two years old before they weaned him, and then his father put him to school to have him learn to read and write true English. He had not been long there before he learnt to read very well, and then he took his writing so fast that he soon became the head scholar, and so by that he was called the captain of the school. He was not only expert in his book, but in all other waggeries and inventions that youth could be capable of attaining to; so that there was not a boy in the school but what he had put tricks upon; nay, even his master he outwitted in all exercises whatsoever. To his father's and mother's great joy, he also took much delight in archery, so that he became the wonder of the age. He was admired by kings, queens, and princes, and was so arch in his waggeries that scarce a day went over his head without shewing some of his merry pranks upon one body or other, insomuch that he became the whole talk of Nottingham."

It is scarcely necessary to observe, that these histories are the inventions of more than one romance writer, and are not of the slightest historical authority. Yet Ritson, and even his new editor, place reliance on similar documents of a little higher antiquity. Poetry was occasionally, in earlier times, made the vehicle of chronicling history, but no one read in our early literature would regard a poem of adventures of the fifteenth century as historical evidence of the facts it relates, without the strongest possible confirmation of their truth. If our public records tell us any thing of Robin Hood and Little John, let Mr. Gutch seek and find. One entry in an authentic roll will be better proof than a thousand pages of traditions and conjectures. We propose to offer a few further remarks hereafter on this popular subject.

POETRY IN FLOWERS.

The Poetical Language of Flowers; or, the Pilgrimage of Love. By Thomas Miller, author of "Pictures of Country Life," &c. Pp. 192. London, Bogue.

WITH many sweet representations of the flowers here celebrated, Mr. Miller has in a true poetical spirit added sweets to the sweet; and not with wasteful and ridiculous excess, but with congenial and genuine taste, re-painted the lily and added perfume to the violet. The subject is a beautiful one for a mind imbued by Nature with poetic feeling and fostered (flower-like) by cultivation. Mr. Miller (with a few redundancies, perhaps the result of over-anxious care and aspiring labour) has done great justice to his theme and to his own reputation in this volume. It is a charming production: let us cull a nosegay (what a hateful word *bouquet* is!) from it, and let our readers see something of its lovely blooms, and inhale something of its pleasant scents. The author interprets the flowers as emblems of human emotions and symbols of the affections. And thus the *Violet*:

"Every one can remember some bank on which

the violet blows, some green lane or pleasant footpath in which they have been stopped in spring by its fragrance. 'Sweet violets' is one of the earliest cries which greet the ear in spring, telling us that they have come again, like beautiful children, heralding in the approach of summer; they bring joyous tidings of brighter days, and the return of singing-birds, and the whispers of long leaves and pleasant walks, reminding us that Nature has awoke from her slumber, and is shaking open the unblown buds, which have gathered around her during her long winter's sleep. Dear was this modest and beautiful flower to the hearts of our elder poets; and from its sweetness, buried amid the broad green leaves, they drew forth many an exquisite image, and in it found the emblems of hidden Virtue, and neglected Modesty, and unchanging Love.

"Stepping further into summer comes the star-white *Jasmine*, that sweet perfumer of the night, which only throws out its full fragrance when its sister stars are keeping watch in the sky; as if when the song of the nightingale no longer cheered the darkness, it sent forth its silent aroma upon the listening air. Many a happy home does it garland, and peeps in at many a forbidden lattice, where Love and Beauty repose. Little did the proud courtiers and stately dames of Queen Elizabeth's day dream that this sweet-scented creeper (a sprig of which seemed to make the haughty haughtier still) would one day become so common as to cluster around and embower thousands of humble English cottages,—a degradation which, could they but have witnessed, would almost have made every plait of their starched ruffs bristle up, like 'quills upon the fretful porcupine.' Beautiful are its long, drooping, dark-green shoots, trailing around the trellis-work of a doorway, like a green curtain embroidered with silver flowers; while here and there the queenly moss-rose, creeping in and out like the threads of a fanciful tapestry, shews its crimson face amid the embowered green,—a beautiful lady peeping through a leaf-clad casement.

"But of all the odours that ever floated from the spicy shores of 'Araby the blest,' there are few to excel the sweet fragrance of our scented *Pinks*, over which, when the wind blows, the gale seems to come laden as if with perfume from a bed of spices. Beautiful are they in their wild state, waving on the ruined walls of some ancient fortress, and drooping peacefully over those mouldering battlements, behind which the warder once paced and the cross-bowman took his deadly aim,—there it still hangs, throwing its sweetness over the roofless walls of the banquet-hall, as if to shew how frail and fleeting was the beauty which once proudly trod those crumbling floors."

"Flowers of Love."

With grey head bent towards the ground,
While wandering through a Saxon vale,
A pilgrim first the violet found,
Flinging its fragrance on the gale,
As he towards the holy shrine
Journey'd along with wearied feet:
He smiled to think the saint divine
Should him with such sweet odours meet.

A lover on the Indian sea,
Sighing for her left far behind,
Inhaled the scented jasmine-tree
As it perfumed the evening wind:
Shoreward he steer'd at dawn of day,
And saw the coast all round embower'd,
And brought a starry sprig away
For her by whose green cot it flower'd.

And oft when from that scorching shore
In after-years those odours came,
He pictured his green cottage-door,
The shady porch and window-frame,
Far, far away, across the foam—
The very jasmine-flower that crept
Round the thatched roof about his home,
Where she he loved then safely slept.

With raven-ringlets blown apart,
And trembling like a startled dove,
A lovely girl press'd to her heart
A moss-rose to appease its love.
But all in vain, it still kept beating;
And so she said, 'Tis all in vain!
Oh, this love, 'tis past defeating;
What can I do but love again?"

"The 'Bonny Broom' is familiar to every lover of the country, and cannot be mistaken for the gorse or furze, even in the dark; for, although their flowers are very similar, there is a difference in the latter, which is soon 'felt.' The broom is one of England's oldest flowers, and was as familiar to the eye of the ancient Briton as it is to our own; neither has its name undergone any change, for Alfred the Great called it the broom, as we do now. I have chosen to carry it farther back than the days of the Plantagenets, for the origin of its emblem, as there is but little of humility about their haughty race, whatever there may be in their name.—Blue-belled flowers, known by a hundred various names in different parts of England, and all belonging to the genus *Campanula*, are as familiar as the daisy to every one who has rambled about the country—from the campion (the giant) to the creeping, and every variety of bell-shaped flower that belongs to the order. But of all the blue-bells, my favourite is the little wild harebell, which still gets as near into London as it can for the smoke, and may be found no farther off than Dulwich and Norwood, nodding its beautiful blue head, when nearly all the flowers of summer have faded. There, together with the heather, it still blows, in spite of railways and land-surveyors, and will do until the foundations for new houses have uprooted it from its native spot; until human habitations are reared, and household hearths blaze above the place where it has for ages grown. That botanist displayed some taste who first selected these bell-shaped flowers as the emblem of Constancy; for 'true blue' is one of the few colours about which Britons boast: they are truly English flowers—

'Sweet daughters of the earth and sky.'

"The *Drowsy Poppy* has been selected, in floral language, as the emblem of Consolation; and from its dreamy narcotic qualities is well chosen. Many of the double poppies which are cultivated in gardens have a very elegant appearance. It also forms a very beautiful ornament about the borders of our corn-fields, being pleasanter to the sight than to the smell; for the fragrance is very unwholesome, and on this account it is called by the country people the *Headache*. It is also called the *Red-cap* and *Corn-rose* in different parts of England. In the heathen fables the poppy is first said to have been raised by the goddess Ceres to console her for the loss of her daughter Proserpine, who, while gathering flowers in the fields of Enna, was carried off by Pluto; and ever since then the goddess of harvest has cultivated it amidst the golden wheat. In some parts, the country maidens have still a belief that they can test the affections of their lovers by the secret power which the poppy possesses; that if one of the petals was placed upon the palm of the hand, and when struck smartly it made a loud report, their swains were true, while if it burst in silence it foretold that their lovers were false. In allusion to this there is an old stanza, written by whom I know not, which says:

'By a prophetic poppy-leaf I found
Your changed affection, for it gave no sound,
Though in my hand struck hollow, as it lay,
But quickly withered, like your love, away.'

"In the *Apple-blossom* we see the lily and the rose blended together, like a blush softening into the snowy whiteness of a sweet face; decking, peradventure, some countenance that we secretly love—a love which from very fear we dare not give utterance to, lest some other should already be preferred. It may be, too, that at the same time we already stand high in her estimation, and yet her innate modesty causes her to shrink back from revealing it; and so we go on dallying and sighing together, like the spring breeze playing in and out a bunch of apple-blossoms, then quitting them until the warmer air of the bolder summer comes forth, and ripens the blushing blossoms into the full fruit of mellowed love. Of all the beauties which Spring, stepping forth, hangs upon the trees,

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leaving a wreath here and a garland there, the loveliest of all her rich decorations is still the opening apple-blossom—the emblem of preference in love.”

“The White Rose has long been considered as sacred to Silence; over whatever company it was suspended no secrets were ever revealed, for it hung only above the festal board of sworn friendship. No matter how deep they might drink, or how long the wine-cup might circulate round the table, so long as the white rose hung over their heads every secret was considered inviolable; no matter how trivial or how important the trust, beneath that flower it was never betrayed; for around it was written the sentence,

‘He who doth secrets reveal
Beneath my roof shall never live.’

What faith and what confidence must there have been between man and man in the olden time, when only the presence of a flower was needed to prevent the maligning whisper, to freeze up slanderer’s hateful slime, and destroy that venom which, when once circulated, proves so fatal to human happiness! Beyond the circle to which the expressive text was assigned that wound about the rose not a whisper wandered; the pleasure only was remembered, the painful word forgotten ere it had gathered utterance; or, if remembered at all, it was only as having existed for a moment ‘under the rose.’ Truest test of friendship! inviolable bond of brotherhood! Sacred altar, on which heart was sworn to heart, thou didst need no golden chains to bind thee to thy trust, no solemn vow sworn but to be broken, nothing but a simple white rose to bind these men of true hearts and strong faith together.

“The Heath was well chosen as the emblem of Solitude. It could scarcely be otherwise, adorning, as it does, the lonely waste, and waving over weary miles of desolate moorland, where scarcely a tree breaks the long level line of the low hanging sky, and a human habitation but rarely heaves up to cheer the monotony of the scene. It recalls many a wild landscape; the bleak, broad mountain-side, which throughout the long winter and the slow-opening spring looked black and barren, till towards the end of summer, when it was clothed every where with the rich carpet of crimson and purple heather, looking from the distance as if a sunshine, not of earth, had come down and bathed the whole mountain-steep in subdued and rosy light. The heath recalls scenes of solitude and of silence; vast plains of immeasurable extent, where only the wild bird flaps its wings; spaces which when the sun has traversed across the day is ended, and upon the wide outstretched plains you see the night descend; it brings before the eye still out-of-the-way scenes, that go elbowing in where mighty woods meet together, where the bramble trails, and the blackthorn grows, and the red fox sits before the shadow of the steep bank, eying her young cubs as they play together amongst the crimson heath-bells,—spots where lovers might sit and sigh away their souls in each other’s arms without being disturbed by even the foot of the solitary hunter; where the light-footed deer would pace slowly along in his heathery fastness, then bound off in a moment, with all the fleetness of the wind, when he saw the form of man intruding upon his forest-habitation,—places where the spotted snake basks securely at the foot of the antique oak, while the long-tailed martin pursues its prey among the gnarled and moss-covered branches overhead; where the little lizard preps securely from its hole, and the wild cat glares with fiery eyes from the deepest solitude. Not that love can ever be solitary or alone, for around it are floating sweet memories, eyes that bend tenderly downwards, that fall sweeter than music upon the ear, and looks that were kindled into sweet affection by the warmth of love.”

“The beautiful Hawthorn has been selected, as well as the Snowdrop, for the emblem of Hope; and there are few but can recall with delight the healthy fragrance which has cheered them while wandering

between the green hedgerows of England. Our old poets, as if despairing to find a fitting name for this fragrant blossom, have called it May, after one of the pleasantest months in the whole year; for to them that word recalled the season of poetry, the month of flowers, and was fraught with associations of all that is bright and beautiful in the earth: for there are but few objects that strike the eye with greater delight than the rural hedgerows which stretch for miles throughout our country, and are at the close of spring flushed over with the pink-white blossoms of May. In the olden time our ancestors did homage to this season of flowers, and went out with songs and music to ‘bring home May.’ They erected arbours of green branches—they selected a beautiful maiden, and crowned her Queen of May—they placed her upon a throne of flowers—they wreathed her brow with blossoms, and danced around her—and they hung the tall, tapering Maypole with gay garlands of variegated colours. Even kings and queens left their palaces, the proud baron rode out from under the dark-browed archway of his feudal castle, the fair lady deserted her bower, and the brave knight, with his plumes dancing in the wind, mounted on his prancing war-horse, rode beside the white palfrey of his lady-love, and so they went forth, throwing their titles and dignities for once aside, to ‘do observance to the May.’ Surely we err in calling these the dark and barbaric ages while they paid such worship to the flowers. Although they might lack the light of that knowledge which has since broken out and illuminated the earth, still they had a fine taste for the beautiful, a simple and earnest adoration for the lovely flowers of the field; and wherever such a feeling exists, whether in the palace or in the cottage, it points out a refined mind, an elegant perception, and a heart alive to all that is pure and beautiful. How natural that so sweet-scented and common a blossom should be selected as the image of Hope! for who could behold it without trusting that there were still better days in store?”

“The Snowdrop.”

As Hope, with bowed head, silent stood,
And on her golden anchor leant,
Watching below the angry flood,

While Winter, ‘mid the dreariness,
Half-buried in the drifted snow,

Lay sleeping on the frozen ground,
Not heeding how the wind did blow,

Bitter and bleak on all around:
She gazed on Spring, who at her feet

Was looking on the snow and sleet.

Spring sighed, and through the driving gale
Her warm breath caught the falling snow,

And from the flakes a flower as pale
Did into spotless whiteness blow;

Hope smiling saw the blossom fall,
And watched its root strike in the earth;

‘I will that flower the Snowdrop call!’
Said Hope, ‘in memory of thy birth;

And through all ages it shall be
In reverence held for love of me.’

‘And ever from my hidden bowers,’
Said Spring, ‘it first of all shall go,

And be the herald of the flowers
To warn away the sheeted snow;

Its mission done, then by thy side
All summer long it shall remain.

While other flowers I scatter wide
O’er every hill, and wood, and plain,

This shall return, and ever be
A sweet companion, Hope, for thee.’

Hope stooped and kissed her sister Spring,
And said, ‘For hours when thou art gone

I’m left alone without a thing
That I can fix my heart upon;

‘Twill cheer me many a lonely hour,
And in the future I shall see

Those who would sink raised by that flower:
They’ll look on it, then think of thee:

And many a sad heart shall sing,
The Snowdrop bringeth Hope and Spring.”

We know not; but we cannot help thinking that every fresh heart will delight in these images. Our most common flowers are embalmed in such prose and verse. We have a *hortus siccus* in literature, but as delicious as if living and adorning every rural nook of the smiling land.

THE MESSRS. CHAMBERS OF EDINBURGH.

Select Writings of Robert Chambers: Essays, familiar and humorous. Vol. I. pp. 410. Edinburgh, Chambers: London, Orr.

THIS literary career of the Brothers Chambers is so honourable to them, has had so much influence on popular reading, and has been attended with such extraordinary success, that we trust a few remarks upon this publication may not be deemed amiss from our pen. Few wayfarers on the thorny path of literature, and especially of literature in a serial form, have deserved to fare better; and very few indeed have fared so well. Sir Walter Scott, with all his genius; Mr. Charles Knight, with all his talent and irrepressible zeal, sustained by a powerful combination; Mr. Loudon, with indefatigable industry, and a vast amount of useful knowledge; are examples that

“‘Tis not in mortals to command success,”

however highly their merits may deserve the triumph. We allude, of course, to such a degree of success as ought to crown such exertions, were all rewarded by equal fortunes, and without disparagement to our much esteemed Edinburgh friends. They have exercised their abilities judiciously; they have fulfilled their functions prudently and honestly; they have performed their duties to the public not only irreproachably, but most beneficially, pandering to no false appetite, but mingling instruction with entertainment, and information with almost every species of social improvement, till the limits of their enterprise have extended to a truly gigantic sphere. It is marvellous to imagine how much the writer who dissipates himself in constant periodical publication does actually produce. On an estimate it would seem as if his every breath had been a printed sentence; as if his mouth never opened but to deposit types, as the gifted fairy-favourite princess dropped diamonds [and by the way, there are types called both pearl and diamond]. The many years which Robert Chambers, in particular, has devoted to literary production, have accumulated a mass which, we believe, would astonish, were it all placed in a MS. heap before his eyes, even himself. And when we reflect on the character of the whole,—how good it has been, how free from objection, how well calculated to attract and benefit the popular mind in the very humblest circles where the art of reading is taught, yet often addressing the highest and most cultivated,—we cannot but consider the writer to have been a marked benefactor to his country and kind. He has displayed great judgment in the choice of his many designs, and great talent in his original contributions to their far and wide acceptance, as guides to the useful and pleasant pastimes to the recreative. His *nullum quod non ornavit teligit* is of a prodigious calibre; and Scotland has reason to be proud of his and his brother’s labours. The influence they have had, nationally, is incalculable; and the seed they have sown must bear an inestimable harvest for many a future year, and tens of thousands yet unborn.

One of the circumstances in the career of these writers ought not to be passed over in silence. They have throughout been self-supported. They were never trammelled with other alliances. Whilst yet young and trying their first lowly efforts, they were content to struggle on unaided by extrinsic help. They, by industry and ability, made their position; and then they could, with better effect, gradually carry out their enlarged plans, and seek no assistance. As they rose, their views were extended; till they took, indeed, a very universal publishing survey and occupation of Great Britain. We will venture to surmise that if ever, at any period, they had departed from this course, they would never have been what they are.

It is with feelings of sincere pleasure that we take up the first volume of this collection, and seize the occasion, not merely to commend its varied contents, but to offer this tribute of applause to contemporaries so truly deserving. In productions almost as fertile as M. Alexandre Dumas we can

discover no tones of silly vanity, no diffusion of bad principles, no traces of ill nature. Their sympathies with the million are not mingled with poisons for the million; their addresses are paid to truth, utility, or harmless entertainment, and not to irritate dangerous passions, nor feed like carrion vultures on the sores they create, and the corruption their base appetites lead them to prefer to the fresh and sound in letters and the social system. To them pleasant fields and beauties have appeared more welcome than miry ways, and deformities detected on the right and the left as they passed along. Thus their vehicles have been convenient or handsome carriages, and not mud-carts with offal and offence. Must not the wise and good therefore rejoice in the prosperity which has attended their efforts; feeling that they have been directed to improve and humanise the public mind? We believe that such is the unanimous opinion of the world—an opinion with which, upon the best of grounds, on very attentive examination, we most cordially agree.

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT.

Experiences of a Gaol-Chaplain; comprising Recollections of Ministerial Intercourse with Criminals of various Classes; with their Confessions. 3 vols. R. Bentley.

THESE highly wrought and fearful revelations have appeared in a series in *Bentley's Miscellany*, where they excited great interest. It is likely that they may now, in a collected form, provoke that morbid reprehension which it seems ought to attend all writings that develop guilt and describe crime. We are to live in the bliss of ignorance; we are to know nothing of vice; we are to enjoy a social system as pure and untainted as Eden before the Serpent entered there. It is surprising that the account of that first example of deceit, lies, and treachery, has not been stigmatised as likely to lead to those vile characteristics, by tracing them in so lucid and graphic a manner. But the Gaol-Chaplain has had no apprehension of this sort. He has gone into the heart and the details of his dark subjects; and his narratives, like the *Causee Cell-dores* and the *Newgate Calendar*, have consequently a powerful attraction for the human mind. There is no denying the fact, that there is in our nature a strong bias towards the painful and horrible. That which hurries the low and vulgar to witness punishments is the same with that feeling which thrills higher classes in seeing a tragedy or reading an agitating tale of woe and suffering. We like to be distressed sometimes. We like to have night as well as day, gloom as well as sunshine. Lesser evils and accidents commonly provoke laughter. There is something in selfish which reacts consolatorily, if not agreeably, on the disclosure of others' wrongs or pangs.

It would appear, at least, as if sentiments of this sort had animated the author of the preface to these volumes, for it is facetious and laughable,—not quite in harmony with the sad and sombre recitals in the body of the work. It is like a ludicrous prologue to a pathetic play: *per se*, it is smart; and, where graver argument is alleged, much to the purpose.

We do not, however, agree with the writer, who, quoting Archbishop Whately, ridicules transportation as a clumsy method of merely removing the criminals, to make New South Wales a very wicked country. This is not absolutely true in fact. The criminals are too rigidly restrained to render offence there either very easy or very pleasant to the perpetrator. But, besides, is not removal to a distant and thinly peopled continent preferable to being left at home amid a dense population, to spread infection throughout the mass, and corrupt and endanger the entire frame of society? The question of secondary punishments is a very difficult and complicated one. If the diseased are not cut off and separated from the flock, the flock will soon have the rot. What, then, is to be done? We agree with the writer,—do every thing possible in

the way of prevention; but all your doings will not prevent such a crop of crime as cannot be disposed of in prisons and penitentiaries. To our minds, the cheapest (in the end) and the most effectual mode of disposing of the irreclaimable, is to banish them from the land they must continue to defile and injure. And in this, also, is involved the principle of prevention; for it is no light dread to be sent far from every natural tie—coerced, and liable to severe inflictions, only to be landed on an unknown world, and subject to slavish labours and slavish penalties. Every alleviation of this alternative, we allow, ought to be earnestly cultivated; reclamation in gaols, as far as it can be produced—not much, we fear; and, to the utmost extent to which they can be carried, the plans for rescuing children from training in unavoidable guilt, and for saving prisoners, on their discharge, from the absolute necessity of returning to their infamous courses. Much may, and we hope will be done in both these ways now before the public, and under the consideration of government. But do they little or do they much, they are both practicable, and not liable to one single objection, even statistical and economical.

But we are getting into a treatise upon a perplexed and perplexing national topic, instead of telling our readers that these volumes tell tales of appalling calamity and awful import, such as rivet the attention, and, if rightly construed, are well calculated to improve the soul and regulate the conduct. Having been already so generally accessible in a popular magazine, we add no more.

PELLEW'S LIFE OF LORD SIDMOUTH.

[Second notice: conclusion.]

IN our previous remarks, it will be seen that Lord Sidmouth attributed much of Mr. Pitt's alienation from him to the influence of Mr. Canning; and, indeed, it is insisted upon to the extent of absolutely controlling that strong-minded and stout-hearted minister.

"Painful as it is (says the writer) to dwell upon the failings of any great and eminent character, it would be both improper and useless to withhold the fact, that the party to whom Mr. Addington more particularly attributed the alienation of Mr. Pitt's friendship and confidence from himself was Mr. Canning; and this being his conviction, it is not surprising that he should have resented with considerable warmth a line of conduct which had been productive of such painful results. Such, indeed, was the state of feeling which had now arisen between these two statesmen, that for several years they declined to serve together in the same Cabinet; and in this position they remained until the summer of 1812, when an accidental meeting occurred between them, at which generosity and mutual good feeling happily prevailed in putting an end to a difference so distressing both to themselves and to their friends. The circumstances attending this reconciliation are so honourable to both parties that it is with much satisfaction they are now presented to the reader, as extracted from Miss Addington's notes of her father's conversations: 'On the 21st of July, 1812, the Count d'Antraigues was murdered by his own servant at his lodgings at Barnes in Surrey; and as he had long been an object of political suspicion to the government, it became Lord Sidmouth's duty as Secretary of State to detain his papers for inspection. A day was accordingly appointed, on which the young Count d'Antraigues was to attend at the Home Office to witness the opening of his father's papers, and at his request, two friends of the deceased person, of high character and distinction, were also invited to be present. The parties thus selected were Mr. Vansittart and Mr. Canning. The latter, arriving early on the day appointed, instead of being conducted at once into the apartment assigned for the examination of the papers, was, by mistake of the office-keeper, ushered into the anteroom to Lord Sidmouth's

private apartment. On hearing this circumstance, his Lordship immediately desired Mr. Canning might be shewn in, and on his entrance offered him his hand. 'Accident,' he said, 'has brought us together, and I gladly avail myself of the opportunity to say, that it surely is not becoming us as gentlemen, not to mention our higher obligation as Christians, to be unable to meet in society without the recurrence of feelings distressing to ourselves and others. For his own part,' he added, 'he was anxious to declare his readiness to meet Mr. Canning on cordial terms, and that it only rested with him to remove all painful impression of the past.' Mr. Canning changed colour, and with much emotion took Lord Sidmouth's offered hand, saying, 'My Lord, you have removed a great weight from my mind: I cannot express what I feel!' To the above description of what passed on this occasion, as given by one of the parties, that of the other can now, fortunately, be added. It is contained in a letter, dated 'Felpham, February 4th, 1813,' addressed by Dr. Cyril Jackson, Dean of Christchurch, to Lord Sidmouth, upon which the latter has endorsed the words, 'To be carefully preserved.' After a few sentences on a different subject, the letter proceeds as follows:

"I had two calls from Canning, last year, when he was on a visit to Huskisson, who lives about eight miles from this place. He talked over many things with me, as he generally does, very confidentially; but, generally, they are things which are past. I get histories, therefore, and I believe, too, in the main (as I judge from comparing them with what I hear through other channels), not unfaithful ones: nor does he spare himself, or refuse to be scolded, as he often is; but then, as I tell him, before he gives me the opportunity of scolding, the mischief is already done. We had talked over a certain negotiation, and, of course, had said something of many persons individually, when he observed to me, on the sudden, and with much emotion, 'I must tell you something of Lord Sidmouth, though I know it will lead to a repetition of the scoldings I have often had.' He then mentioned to me the whole of your Lordship's behaviour to him at your own office: 'the whole,' he said, 'was done with complete dignity, complete goodness of heart, and,' he added too, 'in the best possible augury' (an odd expression, but I understand its meaning). 'I never,' he went on, 'was so thoroughly overcome—I do not know how I behaved, and scarcely what I said. Do not do it in form, but if ever you have an opportunity, I would wish Lord S. to know from you that I felt as I ought.' I will not trouble your Lordship with a detail of the conversation which followed. You will easily judge what it was, if I say that it was a comment on some words of my own, of which he himself fairly reminded me, that 'he would one day feel how unworthily you had been treated.' For myself, I own that I was glad to see that there was still before me the same man whom I had originally known: not, however, that I am at all sure that some nitrous cloud of politics may not hurry him off, like Milton's Satan, to very strange regions; but, at the moment I am speaking of, there were certainly the *veræ voces*, and the *eripitur persona*, of Lucretius. I have often thought of saying all this to your Lordship; but I waited for the opportunity of doing it, as he said, without form: * * * and now, after all my wise counsels, I have done the thing as formally and as abruptly as if I had contrived matters on purpose. Yet, any way, I have a pleasure in writing all this to your Lordship. I have always, through life, liked to be a tale-bearer, if my tale would serve to shew any thing of kindness, and generosity, and honour. * * * I have the honour to be, with the most perfect respect, your Lordship's most obliged and most obedient servant,

CYR. JACKSON."

This is a curious account, and no less curious letter. That there was, to use a common phrase, no love lost between Lord Sidmouth and Mr. Canning, is a notorious fact. Mr. C. thought little

of his Lordship as a statesman, and his Lordship feared Mr. Canning, the sharpness of whose wit galled him sorely, and contributed to his downfall. When such is the case there can be no cordiality. But Lord S. was an amiable, and Mr. Canning one of the most noble generous-minded of men: and that they should have met on harmonious terms after an interval of years is very honourable to both their memories.

Mr. Pitt died, and Lord Sidmouth joined the whig ranks, and was one of All the Talents ministry with Lord Grenville and Charles Fox, and introduced into the cabinet Lord Ellenborough as his ally. A glimpse of the formation of governments may be caught from the following:

"On Friday, the 31st, his Lordship returned to Richmond Park, and wrote the following account of the negotiation to Mr. Bathurst:

"Richmond Park, Jan. 31, 1806.

"My dear Charles,—I came here this evening, after having passed five days in town. The state of parties and of the country has, for a considerable time, been such as to convince me that if properly called upon, and after satisfactory explanations, I could not be justified in refusing to form part of an administration upon a comprehensive basis. Hiley has, I believe, explained to you how and by whom the overture was made to me. Lord Grenville and Mr. Fox were nearly inundated by the pretensions which poured in from their respective connexions; and I was, therefore, as moderate as I could be without unbecoming concession or sacrifice. It is a great point, on all accounts, to carry Lord Ellenborough into the cabinet. I have laid a strong claim for you, which was readily admitted, to a situation of adequate importance whenever a vacancy may take place. For Hiley the joint paymastership is promised; and Vansittart is to return to his former station at the Treasury (at his own request), if his Majesty will dispense with the punctilio arising from his rank as a privy counsellor, which I think very questionable. Lord Buckinghamshire is to be joint postmaster, and Bond, if he pleases, judge advocate. The political arrangements, with one exception (I mean that of the war department), appear to me to be very good. The seals were offered to Lord Ellenborough and Sir James Mansfield, and declined by both. You will be very glad to hear that the King continues well, and in calm spirits. There is an evident disposition to consult his wishes, and attend to his feelings: for this reason the present Horse Guards' arrangements are not to be disturbed."

In September 1806 Mr. Fox followed Mr. Pitt to the grave. His fascinating manners are warmly panegyricised; and their effect, not only upon Lord Sidmouth, but on the King, described with much effect:

"Richmond Park, Sept. 14th, 1806.

"My dear Hiley,—Poor Fox closed his career yesterday evening, and, I trust, in peace. He suffered little, but was occasionally dejected; in general, however, he preserved his complacency, and smiled when any friend approached him, even when he could not converse: as late as Thursday, when he rallied considerably, he talked with Lord Holland and others very cheerfully; and, observing a servant in the room, he spoke in French. Prayers were read to him every day; and he frequently clasped his hands together, and shewed strong signs of devotion. This is a soothing and gratifying circumstance. His last words were—'I pity you!' looking at his wife: just before, he had said, 'I die happy.' Of his talents there can be but one opinion. His natural disposition deserved, I really believe, all that could be said in his favour. I never knew a man of more apparent sincerity; more free from rancour, or even severity; and hardly any one so entirely devoid of affectation. His principles, unhappily, were not sufficiently fixed, and he was too easily led. The consequences of this event will be very embarrassing; with respect to his office, nothing is yet settled. . . .

William is a great comfort to me: he has a sweet temper, and shews talents. He returns to Westminster to-morrow; and, at his own earnest request, begins his preparation to stand out as a King's scholar. I hope he will succeed: at any rate, the attempt will produce application, and excite emulation. Affectionately yours, S.'

"The above sentiments, so unusual for one statesman to entertain for another to whom he had been so frequently opposed, were highly honourable to the characters of both parties. Mr. Fox's powers of attraction must have been extraordinary indeed, to overcome, as they did, not only the feeble resistance of Lord Sidmouth's political predispositions, but also the more deeply rooted predispositions which were believed to prevail in the royal mind. Yet that such was the case is unquestionable. 'Little did I think,' said his Majesty to Lord Sidmouth, at the first interview with which he honoured him after the fatal event—'little did I think that I should ever live to regret Mr. Fox's death.' His Lordship used to remark, that 'Mr. Fox was always peculiarly respectful and conciliatory in his manner towards the King, and most anxious to avoid every question which did not harmonise with his Majesty's conscientious feelings. In proof of this, he mentioned that Count Stahrenberg said to Mr. Fox, when he first came into office, 'Have you no difficulty respecting the Roman Catholic question?' To which he replied, 'None at all; I am determined not to annoy my Sovereign by bringing it forward.' Lord Sidmouth justly considered Mr. Fox's death a public misfortune."

His successors did not observe so much caution, but, as Sheridan said, "not only knocked their heads against this wall, but built the wall on purpose to knock their heads against it;" and so dashed out their desperate brains. New men succeeded, and with very different views, a sample of which we may quote; for Lord S. "in his later years used often to relate the following conversation which he held with Lord Grey on their meeting accidentally in the street, at the period when Lord Wellington occupied the lines at Torres Vedras:—'I am convinced,' observed Lord Grey, 'that in six weeks' time there will not remain a single British soldier in the Peninsula except as a prisoner.' 'Though that should be the case,' replied Lord Sidmouth, 'I still should prefer it to our retiring from Portugal without making any further efforts.' 'Then,' rejoined Lord Grey, 'we cannot talk on the subject.'"

Having incidentally mentioned Mr. Sheridan and Mr. Hiley Addington, we will not close this volume without adding a little more to their names. The former quite charmed Lord S., and was always on the best footing with him. He flattered him:

"Mr. Sheridan observed to the Minister one evening, after dining with him at Richmond Park, 'My visits to you may possibly be misconstrued by my friends; but I hope you know, Mr. Addington, that I have an unpurchaseable mind.' . . .

"There were (continues the author) two features in the recent session which Mr. Addington's biographer cannot but regard as subjects both of public and private interest—the warm support which Mr. Sheridan gave to the Minister in parliament, and the secession of Mr. Pitt. Mr. Sheridan's assistance was spontaneous and disinterested; he neither received, nor, as far as the author can ascertain, expected any office or other return from Mr. Addington. His accession appears to have been occasioned solely by respect for the Minister, and approbation of his measures and conduct; and from this period may be dated a cordial intimacy between the parties, not quite amounting perhaps to friendship, but far exceeding the bounds of common acquaintance, which survived all subsequent political revolutions, and terminated only with Mr. Sheridan's life. That gentleman used frequently, especially at a later period, to pay visits at Richmond Park, where the charms of his conversation, and his ready acquiescence in the quiet

and regular habits of the family, never failed to ensure him a hearty welcome. The following anecdote of Lord Sidmouth's will tend further to explain the footing on which his Lordship and Sheridan stood towards each other: 'There is no man,' said Sheridan to me, 'who has told me more painful truths than you have; and yet you will do me the justice to believe, that there is no one for whom I feel more respect and regard. I have too many irregularities in private life to reproach myself with, but I may safely say, that my conscience is clear towards my country.' Nor was this by any means a solitary instance of the successful manner in which Mr. Addington's bland, frank, and liberal disposition, when, by any accident brought into closer contact with his political opponents, not merely softened their hostility, but converted their feelings of disapprobation into those of attachment and regard. Thus, for instance, the celebrated Mr. Jekyll was an active, though ever a most honourable opponent, both of Mr. Pitt's and Mr. Addington's administrations; yet the author remembers with pleasure the long and delightful visits which that gentleman used to pay to Lord Sidmouth in the evening of their lives, their varied though equally attractive powers of conversation, and the entire accordance of their sentiments on almost every subject."

Mr. Hiley Addington in disposition much resembled his brother, with less of apparent stateliness and *hauteur*. He was a pleasing companion, and fond of literary and dramatic pursuits. We remember him well, after being relieved from the fatigues of office and burdens of state affairs, very deeply in love with Miss Stephens, the present Countess of Essex (as we daresay her ladyship was told at the time, and may yet remember); and we are not quite sure that we are not in possession of the Right Hon. lover's poetical effusions upon this interesting occasion. At any rate, we had the gratification of perusing them confidentially.

The Third Volume carries the reader over the long space of time from 1809 to 1844, a period filled with most important events, and during a considerable portion of which Lord Sidmouth was President of Council and Secretary of State for the Home Department. His proposed measure for licenses to dissenting preachers was one which cost him much trouble; but public business also comprised a vast number of very difficult and trying questions, in all which he was called on to take a prominent share. The King's illness; Hunt's Spafelds, Manchester, and other dangerous riots; Thistlewood's conspiracy; the Queen's trial, death, and burial; the Catholic Relief bill; and a multitude of minor concerns, foreign and domestic, held him in laborious official duties till 1822, when he resigned the seals, though he retained his seat in the cabinet till 1824. The death of his first wife, his remarriage in 1823, and the loss of his second companion in 1842, the death also of one of his daughters, and other family concerns, only shew the chequered condition of human life to high and low. But towards the close of his long career, the fall of early friends around him becomes quite startling. Thick as the leaves in Valombrosa, every month sees them drop; the scene is, as it were, on the last arch of the bridge of Mirza. And last the worthy old lord was gathered to the grave. He died calmly on the 15th of February, 1844, and was buried in Mortlake Church.

His character is summed up with kindly justice by his attached biographer; and if the world may not go all the way with his estimate, we are persuaded that posterity will ever esteem Lord Sidmouth to have been eminently amiable and virtuous, honest and patriotic in his country's cause, and of high political integrity in every respect. That he was not the greatest of statesmen, need not be argued; but he lived in awful and troubled times, which might well have staggered more exalted powers; and that he weathered the storm with so little scathe is no mean proof of prudence and ability.

With this summary we should conclude, but that a subject purely literary, and of much interest to the literary world and to us, is brought upon the carpet in this volume, and has such new light thrown upon it, that we must beg our readers to turn to our division of "*Literary and Learned*" for its illustration in our next *Gazette*.

JAMES'S CASTLE OF EHRENSTEIN.

[Second notice: conclusion.]

In adding our brief, deferred, conclusion to this review, a touch of the romantic may be safely copied as a specimen differing in spirit from our preceding selections:

"The young man paused and listened, apparently fearful that his proceedings might be noticed; but then, as all was silent till a loud peal of thunder again shook the ear of night, he opened the door once more, carefully shading the lamp with his cloak. Then, closing the door gently behind him, he turned a large key that was in the lock, seemingly to ensure that he should not be followed. He was now in a vast old hall, which seemed to have been long unused, for there were manifold green stains upon the stone pavement, no customary rushes strewn the floor, no benches stood at the sides, and the table, at which many a merry meal had passed, was no longer to be seen. A number of torn and dusty banners and pennons, on the lances which had borne them to the field, waved overhead, as the wind, which found its way through many a broken lozenge in the casements, played amongst these shreds of departed glories. A whispering sound came from them likewise, and to an imaginative mind like that of the youth who walked on beneath them, some of the rustling banners seemed to ask, 'Whither, whither?' and others to answer, 'To dust, to dust.'"

"His path (through the serfs' burial-place and the cemetery of the castle) soon became encumbered, and first he stumbled over a slimy skull, then trod upon some bones that crunched under his feet, while strange whisperings seemed to spread around him, till, with no light joy, he saw the farther wall of the vault, with an open arch leading out into some place beyond. When he had passed it, however, the scene was no less sad and gloomy; for he seemed now in a vast building like a chapel, where, ranged on either hand, were sepulchral monuments covered with dust, and between them long piles of mouldering coffins, with overhead a banner here and there, gauntlets, and swords, and tattered surcoats, the hues of which could scarcely be distinguished through the deep stains and mildew that covered them. Here frowned the figure of a warrior in black marble, there lay another hewn in plain stone; here stood a pile of coffins, with the velvet which once covered them, and the gold with which they were fringed, all mouldering in shreds, and offering a stern comment on the grossest of human vanities, that tries to deck the grave with splendour, and serves up the banquet of the worm in tinsel. When he had half passed along the solemn avenue, he thought he heard a sound behind, and turned to look; but there was nothing near except three small coffins, and the marble effigy of a lady kneeling in the attitude of prayer. When he turned round again, a sudden light, blue and pale, like that of the unconfirmed dawn, shone through the long arcades, wavered and flickered round, as if moving from place to place, though whence it proceeded he could not see; but as he strode on, it served to shew him a large snake, that darted from under the crumbling base of one of the monuments, and glided on along the path before him, as if guiding him on his way."

A contrast: "There is a chance given to every man in life, his be the fault if he do not seize it." "The distance is too far, father," answered the young man. "I have often, when I was a boy, stood and looked at the sun rising through the clouds, and when a bright, broad ray has travelled forth

like a pall laid for some emperor's tread, stretching from the golden canopy hung over the ascending monarch of the day, and reaching well nigh to my feet, I have almost thought that I could tread upon it, and wend my way to heaven. But such fancies have passed now, father; such suns no longer shine for me; and in the broad, harsh noonday of manhood, I dream such dreams no more."

We will add another contrast, in the sportive humour of the heroine's devoted attendant, Bertha—a lowly Beatrice. "Well, well (she says), men are strange creatures. I wonder women are such fools as to make themselves their slaves; I'll never marry—not I; for I never yet saw the man that was not as soft as a dormouse while he was courting, and as hard as a hyena when he was married. But there comes old Sickenдорf riding up through the wood; I must away, for he's the greatest old tell-tale in the world, with the gossiping tongue of a grandmother, the spite of a monkey, and the heart of a wolf." "Stay, stay, Bertha," cried the young gentleman; "if we are to seem lovers, you know, it is as well that the old man should see us; and if he catches sight of you walking here with me, without perceiving who it is distinctly, he may fancy it is Adelaide, and make mischief there." "Ah, you treacherous boy!" cried the gay girl, "that is a true specimen of all men. To shield yourself and your love of the hour, you would have all the risk and the blame fall upon me, though Heaven knows I am hazzarding enough to serve you. The more faith and truth we poor things have, the more ready are you to sacrifice us. It seems quite natural and right, does it not, that I should, just as an honour and a pleasure, fall into blame with my lord, and seem your light-of-love, to blind him to your mad passion for his daughter?" "But you yourself proposed, I should make the people think that you, Bertha, are the object I am seeking," replied Ferdinand; "and now, when I propose to follow that very plan, you accuse me of ingratitude, wavering to and fro like an aspen-leaf." "Am I not a woman?" cried Bertha, laughing; "have I not a right to waver? If you are to make love to me, I tell you, I will change fifty times a day: when I pout, you shall call my lips budding roses; when I smile, you shall call my brow heaven; when I cry, you shall say my eyes are like the April sky. Now, I am not in the humour for being made love to, so I have more than a mind to run away and leave you as a morsel for old Sickenдорf's grinders—at least, those he has left." "Nay, nay, dear Bertha," cried Ferdinand, pressing to her side as he saw the horsemen coming near, "if not for mine, for your sweet mistress's sake, play out the part you have undertaken." "The mystery must not be a long one, then, Master Ferdinand," answered Bertha; "and, for modesty, keep a little farther off; for although I do not very much mind that people should say I listened to a love-story—there being no great harm in that—I would rather they did not think it too warm a one, for women have a character to lose, though men have none worth keeping."

Some remarks on dreams offer us another opportunity for illustration. "Mine (says the Count, after a visitation like that of Richard III. in the tent before the battle of Bosworth)—mine have been wild and whirling things; and, 'tis no matter—and yet these undigested thoughts," he continued, after a short pause, "these fanciful notions of the dreaming brain, trouble us as much at the time as fierce realities—nay, perhaps more. I have suffered more bitterly, at times, in some dark vision of the night—yes, even in my corporeal frame, than even choking death itself could inflict. I cannot but think that there is a land to which the spirits of the sleeping travel for a time, and undergo a strange and wayward fate, till they are called back again. I've often fancied there must be such a place—a kingdom of dreams, as it were, to which all the strange actions and thoughts of the world are sent as soon as done,

as a sort of commodity or merchandise; and there are mingled up by some fantastic power with the productions of the land itself. There go the images of the dead, the voices that are lost upon the earth, the passionate loves and follies of our youth, the thirsty ambition of our manhood, the crimes and the temptations of all years, even the very thoughts of infancy; and there we find them all, when the spirit is summoned from the slumbering body to visit that strange country. Else, how is it that, when we lie with darkness all around us, no sight, no sound, no scent, to wake up memory, things long forgotten, faces that no effort of the waking mind could call before the eye of fancy, voices that have long ceased to ring in the deafened ear of forgetfulness, come upon us, all strong and vivid as reality; ay, even the feelings also no longer suited to our state of being, totally dissonant to the condition of our corporeal frame, or to our mental age,—such as the joys and pastimes of our early boyhood, and the prattled pleasures of our baby days?—Yet there they all are—bright as if in life, though strangely mixed with other wilder things, and cast into mad impossible array. Last night it seemed as if every action of my life, charmed by some frantic Orpheus, danced around me in wild and grotesque forms, never pausing till I had leisure to taste one joy, or power to resist one pang."

Here also we offer a brief example of the poetry interspersed:

"The Jester's Advice to Ladies."

Flaunt not your beauty in the common eye,
Lest, like hedge flowers, it be not thought worth plucking;
Trust to no young man's tender word or sigh,
For even pigs are gentle when they're sucking.

Judge of your lover by his deeds to others,

For to yourself he's ever a deceiver:

Mark, girls, your fathers' conduct to your mothers,

And each be, if she can be, a believer."

The jester's remarks are throughout pithy, biting, and pertinent.—"I thought (says Ferdinand, waking from a good sleep)—I thought that I had just closed my eyes." "Yes, that is the blessing of youth," said the jester; "he thinks not, either sleeping or waking. He dreams while he is waking, and forgets while he is sleeping; and therein has he the two best gifts that man can covet—to dream and to forget."

To these quotations, however insufficient to do justice to the *Castle of Ehrenstein*, we shall only add, that the numerous characters are distinctly and forcibly drawn, and the graphic winding up worthy of the plot and action.

Mr. James's style in working out his designs by stroke after stroke, till the details seem to render invention reality, appears to great advantage in this varied medieval mosaic; perhaps we too certainly anticipate what the result must be, but nevertheless, the fearful interest is so happily sustained, that we often doubt and tremble. We say no more. In our opinion, this will be one of the writer's most popular productions.

THE STUART PAPERS.

[Second notice: conclusion.]

We hardly can guess, after the declared purposes of this publication (*vide last Gazette*), what portions of the Stuart Papers will be permitted to see the light. Some of them we know are objectionable to publicity, on the score of matter unfit for general perusal; and others will probably be withheld, at least for a time, on account of their compromising the ancestors of noble families who played fast and loose a century ago. The present volume of correspondence does not elicit much in that way; but still there is enough to shew how the grandfathers and great grandfathers of living individuals of high estate were engaged in the either side intrigues. Atterbury's death was sudden; and the violent struggle to get hold of his papers for preservation, and more for destruction, affords a curious view of the anxieties of parties implicated in these transactions. The result was their dispersal in several

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directions, some to the Scots College, some to other keeping, and some to the flames.*

James's marriage is another topic of much interest. It is stated that "as early as 1715, James had entertained thoughts of proposing for the hand of a daughter of the Regent Duke of Orleans, although he had doubts whether 'such an alliance would be acceptable to the fantastical Lady Mary [England]'. In 1716 he sent O'Rourke to make overtures to the Elector Palatine for the hand of a Princess of that family. . . . This negotiation failed; for on the 8th of September, 1716, the Elector Palatine writes to O'Rourke declining the match, on the ground that he was 'obligé d'avoir tout le regard au Gouvernement présent d'Abeville [Angleterre]'; and then appeals to O'Rourke's own knowledge concerning 'la situation des Etats et Domaines de Constantin [l'Electeur] et avec quelle facilité il y pourroit être inquisiteur de la part d'Humbert [Hanovre]'. In the following year he made a proposal to the Duke of Modena for the hand of his eldest daughter; and thinking the Duke tardy in giving his consent, he wrote on the 12th of June, urging him to come to a decision. 'Mon bonheur,' says James, 'mon cher Oncle est entre vos mains, aussi bien que celui de tous mes sujets, et la religion même n'est pas peu intéressée dans votre détermination. . . . faites le donc au plutôt, faites voir que vos sentimens répondent à votre naissance, et par une résolution digne de vous, rendez moi heureux en vous montrant vraiment grand, et au dessus de tout ce qui empêche souvent les autres Princes à soutenir la justice et la religion.' This application also failed, and very much, it would seem, to his regret; for he observes, in a letter to Dillon, 'would to God Masters [Duke of Modena] affair had succeeded, but alas there is no more thoughts to be had of that.' He was not more successful in his negotiations for this purpose with the Czar, the King of Sweden, or the Landgrave of Hesse, to all of whom, as appears from his letters, he sent proposals. Nor does he seem to have shewn any aversion to unite himself to a Protestant Princess, and was at one time ready to prefer Miss Hornby [the Princess of Hesse] to all others, as most agreeable to his friends and Henry [England]; on whose account indeed 'he was willing to enter into any marriage than none at all.' At last, after a negotiation of more than a year's duration, he was married by proxy to the Princess Clementina Sobieski, in May 1719."

Negotiations of a political character for the aid of Russia and Sweden were active throughout the same period, and failed little of being successful. Walpole's accession to the ministry appears to have been fatal to the Jacobite affairs and hopes.

To Col. Churchill's mission to Paris is traced the treachery of Mar, and the consequent trial of the Bishop of Rochester, in a manner which leaves hardly a doubt of the fact: it is a painful episode in the history of falsehood and treason. The mission of the Duke of Wharton to Vienna in 1725 affords another example of the complicity which beset these affairs; and to illustrate which we may quote a part of the explanations of Mr. Glover.

"It seems (he observes), from the tenor of several portions of the correspondence, that the gentleman here alluded to was James Hamilton, who met the Duke on his arrival at Rotterdam, which took place about the 1st of July. On the 4th, the Duke wrote to the Chevalier, announcing his arrival in Holland, and on the 13th he forwarded another letter to James from Frankfurt, in which he informs him, that he had 'settled a correspondence with your Majesty's friends; and my letters are to be sent to Dr. Paterson at Rotterdam, who transmits them to James Hamilton.' It was certainly James's wish that the Duke, before he proceeded to Vienna, should go to Paris and

receive instructions from Atterbury. But notwithstanding the hopes which the Bishop was led to entertain of such an interview, and the earnestness with which he himself desired it, it is put beyond doubt by the Duke's own avowal, that he did not contemplate such a journey at this juncture, for the strong and urgent reasons which he gives in his two letters to James, dated respectively July 4 and 13. The first of these he wrote from Rotterdam, a day or two after his landing, and in reference to this point he says: 'I must with great humility beg leave to represent to your Majesty the great difficulties under which I labour as to my going to Paris at present. It is certain that nothing should hinder me from waiting on the Bishop of Rochester, were your Majesty's commands to me positive. I beg that you will believe me attach'd to no person but to yourself. Your Majesty in this case only suggests it as your own opinion that it would be of consequence if I did. Upon which I beg leave with the greatest submission to represent that it will be impossible for me to take that step, but it must be known; for the spys of the court are all paid to give that kind of intelligence; and how far it may be for your Majesty's interest that such an interview should be known to the English Ministry, before I had been at the Court of Vienna, I leave your Majesty to judge. I conceive it would be of apparent ill consequence; might alarm the enemy; and prove ev'n an obstacle to the other part of my negotiations. There is one reason more which I hope will have some weight with your Majesty, which is, that L. Leah [Lord Orrery] and the rest of those I before mentioned, never have entrusted me with any correspondence between them and the Bishop of Rochester, so that I should not be at liberty to make use of their names to him without betraying of private confidence; and should I avoid telling the Bishop of Rochester every thing of the English affairs and the names of every person concern'd in your Majesty's business on that side the water, it would create a fatal jealousy between the Bishop and those others whom I have before mentioned. I hope and beg that for these reasons, I may be excus'd at this juncture, going to Paris; but if your Majesty should think it necessary, and lay your commands upon me to that effect, nothing shall hinder me from obeying of them punctually and honestly. For fear I should be wanting in any thing that may conduce to your Majesty's service, I have by this post wrote to the Bishop of Rochester and desired his instructions to be sent to me at Vienna, and a cypher for our future correspondence, which packet must be arrived there before I possibly can.' A few days afterwards, he forwarded from Frankfurt his next letter, dated July 13, in which he again touches upon his journey to Paris, and gives some other reasons for avoiding an interview then with Atterbury. 'I am under,' he observes, 'the greatest uneasiness lest I should have incur'd your Majesty's displeasure in my not going to Paris; but I can assure your Majesty that there are many reasons, not of my own, which prevented my taking of that step. For my part I freely own, I thought it right, but I fear, from what I know, and from what fell from Mr. Zens [James Hamilton] in a discourse on that subject, that had I waited on the Bishop of Rochester, it would have made such a breach between some persons in England, which, for ought I know, might have ended in their breaking off their correspondence with me. I could not write to your Majesty so freely upon this affair from Rotterdam, for a reason which you will easily suggest, but was forc'd to give your Majesty the sense of others; not my own. I hope your Majesty will not mention to any person whatsoever this manner in which I have open'd my conduct in that affair; but I thought it my duty to explain myself thus far, being attach'd to no person or party, but your Majesty and the cause.'"

We close with the remarks on the separation between James and his Queen. "No event (says

the editor) in James's life (and Lockhart calls it 'perhaps the most critical step of it') has called forth more animadversion, or indeed vituperation, than this untoward affair. But it must not be forgotten that this was done, solely, by the faction that contrived and fostered it, and by those whom it could mislead. The real friends of the Chevalier, and those who knew the real facts of the case, while they all, indeed, seriously lamented the circumstance as tending materially to damage his interests, readily acquitted him of the calumnies that had been so industriously circulated concerning his brutal conduct and unbridled licentiousness: yet so firm a hold have these scandalous fabrications taken upon the minds of men, that we find them commonly accepted as acknowledged truths, or stated as undisputed facts of grave history. There is every reason to believe that the whole affair originated in Mar's hatred of Hay, engendered by his own schemes being detected and baffled, and himself laid open to the scorn of all parties. It was (as may have been seen in the notes to this volume) Mar's avowed object for some considerable time before he himself was dismissed, to obtain Hay's removal from about the person of the Chevalier; but in this he had hitherto signally failed. However, the appointment of governor to James's son being now given to a Protestant, and one whom he also hated, and had succeeded in removing, formerly, from the Pretender's Court, seemed to offer a favourable opportunity to enlist Clementina's religious prejudices on his side. In this he was ably seconded by the old and inveterate intriguer, Cardinal Alberoni, and we may be sure, by every Papist, from the Bishop of Rome himself to the most insignificant Romanist in James's household. The Chevalier's own letters will present the most fitting opportunities for the elucidation of this particular period of his domestic history, and little more need, therefore, be said of it here, than to observe, that James displayed, throughout the whole of this painful transaction, a kindness of feeling and a desire of forgetting the strange conduct of Clementina that does him infinite honour:—at the same time that he exhibited a firmness of purpose, the more extraordinary, perhaps, as it was generally supposed to be a qualification not the most predominant in his character."

Dodd's Parliamentary Companion for 1847.

Whittakers.

THE fifteenth year of this useful reference is marked with the usual accuracy of information to the latest period, and also by some improvements. Among these, we may note the ministerial and political changes, as well as those which Time has made in the competency of the Government and Legislature. All these are carefully registered by Mr. Dodd, whose little book is thereby rendered as complete as such a production can be for the intelligence the busy world has occasion to seek for every day.

Facher's Parliamentary Companion, being published monthly, is of a slighter texture, but contains correct lists of the two Houses, addresses, and other information, useful for parties engaged in Parliamentary business. Plans of the labyrinthine offices, committee-rooms, &c. connected therewith, are prefixed, and teach how to thread the mazy way to these multiplied resorts.

Truth and Falsehood; a Romance. By Eliz. Thornton, authoress of "The Marchioness," "Lady Alice," &c. 3 vols. London, Chapman and Hall; Edinburgh, Tait.

THERE are two stories in this publication. The first a romance, the head-quarters of which are located in Germany, but the action ranges over half Europe. The period is of the Emperor Charles V., and the moral is evolved from the dreadful condition of a widowed German lady of high rank, who commits the falsehood of denying her marriage to an Italian adventurer of most malignant character. The plot, eliciting a series or succession of plots, is vivid and interesting; and many

* A misdate occurs in the account, page lviii. line 7 from the bottom.

of the scenes painted with considerable force. The second tale is a sort of *Robinson Crusoe* history, in which females are engaged. The whole sufficiently well done to deserve popular favour.

A Memorial to Joseph J. Gurney. By Bernard Barton. Pp. 23. London, C. Gilpin.

A POETIC tribute to the memory of a good man, the brother of Elizabeth Fry, which does honour to the feelings and the muse of Bernard Barton. Finely was it written by an elder poet,

"Only the actions of the just
Smell sweet, and blossom in the dust;"

here such actions are dwelt upon, and tenderly and morally sung. Harkens to some snatches of the lay:

"Thine was, in truth, no easy path to tread;
Eminence, affluence—all that worldlings deem
The end of life—full many a snare had spread,
And might have lull'd thee in a fatal dream
Hadst thou not known things are not what they seem;
And like a bird deliver'd from each snare,
Been shewn by holy Truth's unerring beam,
There was a heavenly crown to win and wear,
With which no earthly gaud one moment could compare.

But in thy warfare thou hadst often need
To blend with it sound judgment and true love;
Thou hadst to advocate a simple creed,
Taught, as we hold, by Wisdom from above:
'Wise as the serpent, guileless as the dove,'
Might well thy motto and thy watchword be;
For thou hadst much of error to disprove,
And many a mind from prejudice to free,
Ere some thy aim could guess, or thy true mission see!

But not by sect or shore was limited
A love so boundless, and so vast as thine;
Flowing from Christ, its copious fountain-head,
It lived along the far extended line
Which links all human-kind, and could combine
All people and all lands in its embrace;
Earth was to thee one universal shrine,
For Gospel-love to consecrate, through grace,
By making human hearts Jehovah's dwelling-place.

There was a breadth, a largeness in thy soul,
A fulness, richness, amplitude of heart,
Which no sectarian limits could control,
To set thee from thy fellow-men apart:
It comprehended Traffick's busy mart,
The peasant's lowly cot, the noble's hall;
Love unto God and man thy only chart:
Poor, rich, learn'd, ignorant, the great, the small,
Thy sympathies could share, for God had made them all!

The kidnapp'd slave, the prisoner in his cell,
The sceptred monarch in his regal dome,
The giddy trifler bound by Fashion's spell,
The hardy sailor breasting ocean's foam;
All in that heart of thine could find a home,
Whence humble prayer up-rose for all and each;
Yet though thy love thus far and wide could roam,
It flowed no less to wait within its reach,
But there outpour'd its balm in thought, and act, and speech!

These few stanzas will illustrate the earnestness and beauty of the theme. To the Society of Friends we cannot but think it will be most acceptable, though we have left its doctrinal points untouched, and contented ourselves with the slight reference to personal virtues.

The Year-Book of Facts in Science and Art. Pp. 288. D. Bogue.

A PORTRAIT of Le Verrier of planetary fame is judiciously prefixed to this little volume, which, as usual, has collected together notices of all the discoveries, inventions, and movements, of the past year, in reference to the sciences and arts. Many of these are of much importance, and the advance very interesting; and we rejoice to see that the *Literary Gazette* has furnished a full share of the intelligence.

History of the Reformation in Germany. By Leopold Ranke. Translated by Sarah Austin. Vol. III. 8vo, pp. 663. Longmans.

THE universally acknowledged value of this elaborate work renders critical remark superfluous. Here the Reformation of Luther has grown into strength, and holds on its triumphant way through dangers and persecutions. An able preface by the accomplished translator briefly points out the course of this wonderful and most momentous movement.

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

THE MEETING OF THE BIRDS:

ST. VALENTINE'S DAY.

To the Editor of the *Literary Gazette*.

SIR,—Not observing any reporter of yours present owing, perhaps, to the almost universal ignorance of our language, and only an ill-looking individual at a distance with a gun in his hand, which could not be expected to promote the objects of the assemblage, I take the liberty of sending you an account of the meeting held at Moulsey Hurst, on Sunday, the 14th of February instant.

John Bull Finch, Esquire, in the chair.

The *Literary Gazette* No. 1569 being laid before the meeting, consisting of a large assemblage of Small Birds, and the article relating to St. Valentine's Day having been read,

The Hon. Capt. Robin Cock Robin hopped up and addressed the President. He began by observing that it seemed to him to be a cruel mockery to talk of birds pairing in weather so severe as that which afflicted the country at present. He was almost inclined to believe that the insult was offered with malice prepense by the publication in question; seeing that on the very same page with this mockery of their feelings (hear, hear), there appeared an eulogium upon singers, most of them foreign, who were engaged for the rival opera houses, and farther on, a song addressed to Famine, and certainly a very affecting poem called "The Lost." Lost indeed, exclaimed the gallant Captain, and famished, with the snow covering the land to the depth of half a human foot, it was truly a piece of bitter satire to talk of their pairing, when it was evident that the utmost difficulty must attend their endeavours to pick up their crumbs and live.

(Hear, hear, from Miss Jenny Wren). Alas, he continued, when we are starving it is worse than folly to talk of pairing. The foreign warblers alluded to might fend well enough with their prodigious salaries, but what was to become of the native songsters and native song? Pinched in belly, and ruffled in plumage, unknowing where the next morsel was to come from, and hardly sheltered from the piercing winds, it was not likely that they should feel much inclination to pair. But if such madness, even though recommended by a respectable Saint, like St. Valentine, were to enter into their desires, he should like the editor of the *Literary Gazette* to inform them how they were to build their nests? (hear). Where were they to find the materials? even twigs were scarce; and as for hair, feathers, moss, and other materials for a sufficiently warm lining, they, if they existed at all, were frozen fast and deep under the snow. Could any of them endure, under such circumstances, to see the hen of their love and choice lay her eggs in the cold world? Could even the Snow Bunting or the arctic Kittiwack bear to think of such a state of things? No! Better were it for them never to pair at all, than pair into such want and misery; and he concluded by moving the first resolution,—
"That pairing be discontinued!"

C. Sky Lark, Esq., in seconding the motion, whilst he acknowledged the suffering condition of the earth, looked above and towards Heaven for an alleviation of their distress. Much as he was devoted to a Lark, he felt that this was not the time to gratify his inclinations. It was therefore with deep sorrow, though not without hope, that he seconded the resolution proposed for adoption by the gallant Captain. When that brave Bird was discouraged, well might others, less valorous, despair.

Mr. Jim Crow also supported the resolution. Historians told them of the Diet of Worms as of a period when much of evil was produced; but for his part, he would like to see that Diet revived. No one could accuse him of being sluggish where food was concerned; and yet so impenetrably hard was their condition at this hour, that he had been employed nearly all the morning in a vain attempt to

worm out one individual, without breakage and loss, from a clod of the frozen soil. So situated, how could he think of pairing?

Mrs. Maggot Pie congratulated the last speaker on becoming acquainted apparently with the worm that never dies (a laugh), and trusted it would have a beneficial effect upon his future conduct. In that case, if there were no pairing, there would, at any rate (though a contradiction in terms), be a good deal of re-pairing (a laugh).

Mr. Jim Crow, jumping about, asked in a hoarse and angry tone, almost choked with emotion, whether the honourable Pyot meant to be personal?

Mrs. Maggot Pie replied in the negative, but did not approve of being interrupted by any Croaker. Being all black, he could see nothing but blackness in every thing around; whilst she, in the course of nature, could espy white and bright spots at no great distance to cheer the murky forebodings of the dark prophet of ill.

Mr. Black Bird rose to order. Was it just or proper that birds of colour should be calumniated and abused like negro-slaves in America? He for one—

Mr. Jack Daw appealed to the chair to protect the meeting from this disorderly discussion. Let him lay his claw upon his breast, and with the firmness of *rouge put* an end to this *noir dispute* (laughter, and cries of hear, hear).

Timotheus Thrush, Esq. rose to propose an amendment to the original resolution. Being out of voice, he would not trouble them with a long rigmarole, but though, like every bird who heard him, sensible of the extreme difficulty of providing for their bills, content himself with moving, "That the word 'discontinued' after the words 'pairing be' be omitted; and in lieu thereof, the words 'postponed for a season' be inserted."

Mr. Chaff Finch seconded the amendment; which was also supported by the Rev. Dr. Owl, who sagaciously remarked, there was nothing to hinder a thaw from taking place that very night; Thomas Tit, Esq., Messrs. Sparrow, White-throat, Yellow Hammer, Woodpecker, and others; and being put by the President, was carried almost without dissent.

Mr. Common-Sergeant Goose happening to come up at the time, though out of the category, was induced as Lord of the Manor to take the chair; and thanks were unanimously voted to the gallant Captain, who had so ably and impartially conducted the important business of the Saint Valentine's Day.

GREEN LINNET, Secretary.

NURSERY TALES.

To the Editor of the *Literary Gazette*.

IN referring to page 127 in the *Nursery Tales*, it reminds me of a curious poem about sixty years since, the "Bartholomew Fair," where one of the showmen gave the following words:

"Old Joan my wife and Sims the taylor,
And merry little Ben the sailor;
The Court of France I have within,
The grandest sight that's ever seen:
Besides, I have got—don't let it fright ye—
I have got the devil to delight ye;
He's quite tame and very civil,
A merry, jocular, sprightly devil!
Pray walk in and see the show,
I'll please ye all before ye go!"

This little book was full of woodcuts. I should like to meet with the old original edition of *Goody Two Shoes*, with the old cuts; it is more amusing and far superior to the present editions. It is curious to see in the woodcuts of the *Nursery-books* (about 1780) the dresses of the time. In Mrs. Norton's *Story-Book* the little girls are represented with large bonnets, and their hair frizzled and powdered.—I am, &c.

I. A. R.

* How happily prophetic!—Ed. L. G.

ROYAL SOCIETY.

Feb. 11th. *Special General Meeting.*—The Marquis of Northampton first read the by-laws relating to Special General Meetings of the Society, and then the following requisition: "We the undersigned Fellows of the Royal Society of London for improving Natural Knowledge, do hereby, in conformity with the Statute c. 12, s. 2, require a Special General Meeting of the Society to be convened, for the purpose of considering and determining on the legality of the circumstances under which the award of the Royal Medal in Physiology for 1845 was first recommended by the Physiological Committee, and under which it was actually made by the President and Council. T. W. Jones, R. Bright, J. Copland, J. R. Martin, R. Lee, W. F. Chambers, J. Webster, M. Hall, R. E. Grant, G. Gulliver."

Mr. A. J. Stephens said: I rise to speak to order,—there is no question in this requisition raised for discussion, and unless there be you have no power to proceed. The important words in the requisition are, "for the purpose of considering and determining on the legality of the circumstances." Your Lordship will perceive that the legality or illegality of the award has not been raised on the face of this requisition. The question of legality or illegality can only attach to acts; the circumstances are not the acts. But the body of the Society at large has no power to interfere with the discretionary powers of the Council. Corporations are created by the Crown; the power of the Council of the Royal Society is a delegated power, which it cannot transfer to the Society at large: the Society has no power to interfere with the Council. The Charter of Charles II. appointed Visitors; and the Visitors have power over the Council to rescind their acts. If abuses arise, the body at large can appeal to the Visitors, and state their complaints. If the requisitionists have any complaints, they ought to appeal to the Visitors, who have power to rescind the acts of the Council, and correct abuses. But even assuming that the Society at large has the power of controlling the acts of the Council, that the Council is amenable for its acts to the Society, the inquiry has been too long delayed.

The Marquis of Northampton remarked, that the same difficulties which the learned Sergeant stated had presented themselves to him; being the representative both of the Council and Society, he was anxious to preserve the privileges of both. When a question has arisen in which he was a party, he would regret if the meeting were dissolved without discussion. He invited the opinion of any Fellow on the preliminary point. A great difficulty has arisen from the delay: there is a peculiarity in the case. The decision on the award of the Royal Medal in Physiology for 1845 was made on the 1st of December, the Anniversary Day, when the Council was just going out of office. There are no members of the Council who made the award who are now members of this Council; the only members of the Council who made the award and of the present Council are the two Secretaries and myself. The difficulty that stared him in the face was, that he was not merely acting for himself, but for a Council that had no existence. He had no Council to consult.

At this stage of proceedings, it appeared highly probable that the Meeting would be dissolved without any discussion.

Dr. Webster said, as one of the requisitionists he now rose thus early, in consequence of the noble President having stated that the Royal Medal in Physiology was not awarded by the Council till the 1st of December, 1845; and that all previous proceedings on the matter had been set aside. Such being the case, he (Dr. W.) therefore thought this was not a legal award; 1st, because the resolution had not been confirmed before the Medal was given away; and 2dly, because the meeting of the 1st of December could not make such award, as he doubted its being a properly con-

stituted Council. He entertained this opinion on the grounds that, at the anniversary meeting held on the 30th of November, 1844, the officers and Council were only elected for the ensuing year, as stated by Dr. Roget on the part of the Scrutators on the day of election; and in the *Philosophical Transactions*, where the list was published, a note with three asterisks appears immediately under the names of the new Council, stating, "This Council will continue till November 30th, 1845." Such being the facts, the meeting alluded to could not make any award after the period for which the Council was elected had passed, seeing that the powers delegated to them by the Society at the former anniversary had ceased and determined on the 30th November previously. He (Dr. W.) was a physician, not a lawyer, by profession; nevertheless, according to his judgment, the award made on the 1st December, 1845, was not valid for the reasons adduced; and he considered that the award of the Royal Medal was not valid, and consequently had lapsed to the Crown.

The Marquis of Northampton said, the 30th of November, 1845, fell on a Sunday, which was a *dies non*; and that he thought the Council remained in office till their successors were appointed. According to the opinion which had now been stated, he supposed that they were now no Society at all.

Mr. S. Warren said he understood perfectly what the requisition meant. This was not the proper occasion for special pleading: his learned friend, Mr. Stephens, and he, were not now discussing a legal point either in Westminster Hall or the Old Bailey, where neither of them ever went, but at a meeting of the philosophers and gentlemen of England. He appealed to the President's good sense in the matter of the objection, if the requisition was not perfectly intelligible, and if it was now fit to be quibbling about the expression "legality of circumstances." We should be perfectly ridiculous in the eyes of all the world if the meeting now separated without discussion. Let us inquire fairly into the legality of the award. It does not signify whether the expression "legality of circumstances" be correct or not. Mr. Stephens should have conveyed previously to your Lordship his objection to the by-laws. We are legally summoned; the President and Council have called us together on this occasion. In the name of common sense, if we look at the requisition is it possible to mistake its meaning? Are we brought here for nothing? Do we not see a special and proper object for our consideration and determination? My friend has asked, what is the meaning of "legality of circumstances?" We are not met here to decide any question, except the points contained in the requisition; and he therefore submitted that to the consideration of the requisition the meeting must go. He little expected at the threshold of the inquiry such a technical objection. The meeting is summoned in strict obedience to the by-laws, and he believed that the by-laws were valid. Let us address ourselves, then, at once to the requisition.

Sir J. W. Lubbock rose to speak to the legal question. For myself, he said, I give no opinion; but I wish to mention circumstances which are known to me and the senior Secretary, which are not known to other individuals. Shortly after the election of the Duke of Sussex the by-laws were examined, and I was Treasurer, and communicated with his Royal Highness on the subject of the by-laws; and by his direction, before they were finally passed and confirmed by the Council, they were submitted to Mr. Few, who stated that there was nothing in them at variance with the strict letter of the Charter. My strong impression is, that by his Royal Highness's direction they were submitted to Lord Campbell; but coming here to-day, he (Sir J. W. L.) had no expectation that he would have to task his recollection with transactions so remote.

Mr. Broughton made some remarks, and inquired whether the requisition was such as to justify the meeting in going on. There is a complaint, and

it should be made to the Visitors and not to the Society at large.

Mr. Grove said he did not come here intending to say one word; but it seemed strange that the meeting should be held to hear lawyers dispute. There could be no doubt about the validity of the by-laws, and the result of the meeting would be a simple expression of opinion. Could Mr. Stephens say, that by expressing that opinion we would do any thing illegal? subsequently, if any executive act is performed, it might be a nice point how far it could be done. Can it be said that in any way we compromise the honour of the Society? that we are not at liberty to express the moral sense of the Society? Are we to make ourselves the laughing-stock of the public press?

The Rev. Mr. Sheepshanks observed, that the Council had invited us to come here, and whether they attend to what we say or no, it is ludicrous and ridiculous to assert that we cannot meet here because some future act may involve us in responsibilities we do not now foresee.

The President said we were not willing persons to call you. We called you because we were compelled to do so. The by-laws are good laws. The question is, whether a resolution might be put into my hands that might be an illegal resolution. We are legally here, we are not going to talk high treason, there is nothing whatever to stop our tongues. We might object to the resolution. There would be nothing illegal in recommending that such circumstances should not again recur. He would therefore call upon Mr. Wharton Jones to proceed.

Upon this invitation Mr. W. J. rose and said:—My Lord, In commencing the statement which I have to make, I would beg leave to observe that I am sure that in calling this special general meeting, the requisitionists have had no other object in view but the honour and interests of the Royal Society. For myself, I can truly affirm that I have had none other. I can truly affirm that I entertain the highest respect and veneration for the Royal Society; and that I have always endeavoured to the best of my small ability, in conformity with the obligation I came under when I subscribed my name in the Charter-book, to promote the good of the Royal Society, and to pursue the ends for which the same was founded. In the pursuit of these ends, I have not only communicated to the Society whatever observations in the department of science which I cultivate I have been fortunate enough to make, and which appeared to be sufficiently worthy of being submitted to its notice; but also exerted my best endeavours to resist the encroachments of error, and to maintain and vindicate scientific truth, an achievement which the founders of this Society proposed to themselves as second only to the discovery of new truths; and a duty which, I believe, all here present will admit with me to be incumbent on every Fellow of the Royal Society. Still striving to pursue these ends, and believing that in the matter of the award of the Royal Medal in Physiology for 1845, not only the spirit, but the letter of the recognised laws and regulations of the Society has been violated, and loyalty to science set at naught; that therefore acts have been committed injurious to the honour and interests, and altogether subversive of the objects, of the Royal Society, I have taken an active part in promoting the calling of this meeting, and stand here to justify the necessity and propriety of the proceeding.

Preparatory to going into the particular circumstances of the case, I will, with your Lordship's permission, read, 1st, extracts from anniversary addresses of your Lordship's illustrious predecessor in that chair, his late Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, and also from one of your Lordship's own, for the purpose of calling to the remembrance of the Society the arrangements which are understood to be observed by the President and Council in regard to the insertion of papers in the *Philosophical Transactions*, and the award of medals, and also the

mode in which the Committees are presumed to discharge the functions delegated to them by the President and Council; and 2dly, the regulations which were laid down for the award of Royal Medals by her Majesty, Queen Victoria, in restoring the foundation of them, for which the Royal Society is indebted to his late Majesty, George IV.

The anniversary address by his late Royal Highness, the Duke of Sussex, from which I am now about to read extracts, was delivered on the 30th November, 1833.

"There is one arrangement, admirably calculated, in my opinion, to increase the usefulness and to uphold the credit of the Royal Society; I mean, the resolution adopted by the Council to allow no paper to be printed in the *Transactions* of the Royal Society, unless a written report of its fitness shall have been previously made by one or more members of the Council, to whom it shall have been especially referred for examination. This resolution has been acted upon for the greatest part of the last year, and some of those reports of a favourable nature have been read before the Society, and printed in the abstracts of our Proceedings. It is in consequence of the important influence which this plan is likely to have upon the well-being of the Society, that I am induced to enter somewhat in detail into the reasons which have led to its adoption."

After enumerating the advantages which have resulted from the practice of the Royal Academies of Sciences and of Medicine of Paris, his Royal Highness went on to say: "It was from a conviction that many similar advantages would result from such a system of reports in the Royal Society, that the members of the Council were induced to agree to its adoption; and it is to be hoped that, when a longer experience has given to such a plan a more complete organisation, and has shewn the practical extent to which it can be conveniently carried, it will then become a permanent law of the Council."

And then, after commenting on the distinguished character of the *Philosophical Transactions*, his Royal Highness says:

"It becomes us, therefore, to guard these national archives of the progress of knowledge with the reverence which is due to them as monuments inseparably connected with our own national honour; and to watch with our utmost care, lest any addition should be made to them which can be considered as unworthy of the character of the stock upon which it thus becomes engrafted; and it therefore is the bounden duty of every Fellow of this Society, whether it be considered as imposed on him by the terms of the obligation which he signed at the period of his admission as a member, or as derived from the still higher and more comprehensive ties which bind every friend of the great institutions of his country, to maintain their efficiency and credit, and to allow no private or personal cause of jealousy or discontent, no trivial or unfounded plea of want of leisure from business or occupations, to interfere with the devotion of his best exertions to uphold the character and promote the interests of the Royal Society."

Your Lordship's anniversary address, from which I now proceed to read an extract, is that delivered on the 30th November, 1839.

"I have stated, gentlemen, that your Council had recourse to the Scientific Committees for assistance in drawing up instructions for the Antarctic expedition, in different branches of knowledge: those Committees, who were named only two years ago, were at first apparently more a matter of form than of substance: they have now been found capable of doing excellent service. Not only has your Council consulted them on the questions already alluded to, but also, observing that the several Committees are composed of the most competent judges of the merits of the memoirs in the respective departments of science communicated to the Society, they have in general referred the papers to them to report upon, previously to their coming

to a decision regarding their publication. At the same time, the Council retains its responsibility for its acts, and the chief officers of the Society are officially members of each of the Scientific Committees. The Council have derived a further assistance from these Committees in the adjudication of our Medals."

Her Majesty Queen Victoria's regulations for the award of the Royal Medals, are: "That the Royal Medals be given for such papers only as have been presented to the Royal Society, and inserted in their *Transactions*."

I now come, my Lord, to the particular circumstances of the case; and in order to make myself as intelligible as possible, I will first briefly state the grounds on which the legality or propriety of the circumstances we have to consider is questioned, and afterwards adduce the evidence in support of those grounds.

According to the requisition, two distinct points are proposed for our consideration, viz.: 1st, the legality of the circumstances under which the Royal Medal in Physiology for 1845 was first recommended by the Physiological Committee; 2d, the legality of the circumstances under which the award of the said Royal Medal was actually made by the President and Council.

As to the first point: *The legality or propriety of the circumstances under which the award of the Royal Medal in Physiology for 1845 was first recommended by the Physiological Committee* is questioned on the ground that the original recommendation did not proceed from the Physiological Committee duly constituted, but from an unauthorised meeting of certain members of the Physiological Committee, who usurped to themselves the functions of a duly constituted meeting of the Committee.

The circumstances, I believe it will be proved to the satisfaction of the Society, were these: on the 27th of October, 1845, the Physiological Committee met pursuant to a summons which stated that, besides other business, the recommendation of a paper for the award of the Royal Medal in Physiology for 1845 was to be considered. The meeting having met, Mr. Lawrence, in the absence of the chairman, Sir B. Brodie, took the chair. After some part of the business had been transacted, Dr. Roget, it would appear, stated to the meeting that it was a mistake in the summons that the recommendation of a Royal Medal in Physiology was to be considered; that there was no Royal Medal in Physiology for 1845, and that therefore there was no further business before the Committee. Upon this announcement, Mr. Lawrence, having twice put the question, whether or not there was any further business, duly dissolved the meeting and left the chair. After the meeting had thus been dissolved, Mr. Lawrence left the apartments of the Royal Society, but all the other members who had been present at the meeting remained. After Mr. Lawrence had left, some one referred to the announcements regarding the Royal Medals in the *Philosophical Transactions*, when it was discovered that, as stated in the summons to the members of the Committee convening the meeting which had just been dissolved, a Physiological Medal did fall to be awarded in 1845. This discovery having been made, the members of the Physiological Committee who had been present at the meeting duly convened and constituted, but which Mr. Lawrence the chairman had dissolved, and who, i. e. the members of the Physiological Committee, still remained in the apartments of the Royal Society, sat down, placed Dr. Todd in the chair, and proceeded to determine what paper should be recommended to the Council for the award of the Royal Medal in Physiology, as if they had constituted a meeting of the Physiological Committee duly convened.

Here I would observe, my Lord, that as the President and Council do not hold themselves bound implicitly to act on the recommendation of the Committees, but retain their responsibility for their acts, the illegality of the award of the Royal

Medal in Physiology for 1845 strictly hinges on other points than the irregularity of the proceedings which have now been described; but it was necessary to bring them under the notice of this meeting, in order to illustrate the peculiarities of the transaction.

I now come to the second point: *The legality or propriety of the circumstances under which the award of the Royal Medal in Physiology for 1845 was actually made by the President and Council* is questioned on the ground that the paper to which the President and Council awarded the Medal was at the time quite unknown to the Society at large, never having been read farther than its title, and was not eligible in terms of her Majesty Queen Victoria's regulations, not having been inserted in the *Philosophical Transactions*. And here I would answer the objection raised by Mr. Stephens, that the question was not sooner brought before the Society. The reason why it was not is, that the paper, a knowledge of the contents of which was a necessary part of our case, was not published until eight or nine months after the transaction.

The particular circumstances, I believe it will be proved to the satisfaction of this meeting, were these:—On the 30th of October, 1845, the Council met, and, on the simple recommendation of the unauthorised meeting of certain members of the Physiological Committee, voted the award to Mr. Beck's paper, not, as ought to have been the case, on the strength of a written report from a duly constituted meeting of the Physiological Committee. I repeat, not on the strength of a written report. But there is a report, some one will perhaps say. I answer, there is indeed a report, and the history of it I now proceed to sketch. But before doing so, I would beg leave to caution the meeting not to confound the report, the history of which I am about to sketch, with a certain other report or reports alleged by Dr. Roget, in a letter to Dr. Lee, to have been brought before the meeting of the Physiological Committee on the 27th of October or the unauthorised meeting of certain members of the Physiological Committee, I do not know which; but the very existence of which report or reports has been altogether and most positively denied by Mr. Bell the Secretary of the Physiological Committee.

To return to the report. About two weeks after the President and Council had voted the award of the Medal, a requisition was sent to the Physiological Committee for a statement of the grounds on which the recommendation of Mr. Beck's paper for the award of the Royal Medal in Physiology was founded. In accordance with this requisition, the Physiological Committee met on the 20th of November, and requested Drs. Sharpey and Todd to draw up a report on the claims of Mr. Beck's paper.

At a meeting of the Committee of Physiology on the 27th of November, the report on Mr. Beck's paper by Drs. Sharpey and Todd was read and adopted.

On the 1st of December, the Council met an hour or so before the assembling of the anniversary meeting, and received the report of the Committee of Physiology, and on the strength of it did by a new resolution vote the award, having, it would appear, rescinded their vote of the 30th of October, and disallowed the recommendation from the unauthorised meeting, on the strength of which the vote of the 30th of October had been come to.

At the anniversary meeting the Medal was given away—before, therefore, the vote for its award was confirmed.

That such are the leading facts of the case which this meeting is called on to consider and determine, I now proceed to adduce evidence to prove—evidence which will at the same time bring out other facts illustrative of the character of the whole transaction. And first, of the evidence as to the circumstances under which the award of the Royal Medal was first recommended by the Physiological Committee. In reference to this, I would beg that the minutes of the meeting of the Physiological Committee of the 27th of October be read.

Mr. Bell read as follows:

"Oct. 27th, 1845. Present: Mr. Lawrence in the chair. Dr. Bostock, Dr. Todd, Dr. Roget, Mr. Bowman, Mr. Kiernan, Mr. Bell, and Dr. Sharpey.

It was resolved,—That Mr. Wilson's paper 'On the growth and development of the epidermis' be not recommended to be printed in the *Transactions*.

It was resolved,—That Mr. Wharton Jones's paper 'On the blood corpuscles, considered in the phases of their development,' be recommended to be printed.

It was resolved,—That Prof. Purkinje be recommended to the Council to be proposed as a foreign member.

It was resolved,—That the Council be recommended to award the Copley Medal to Prof. Owen for his work on the intimate structure of the teeth, entitled *Odontography*; and on account of his various other important contributions to Comparative Anatomy and Physiology.

Mr. Lawrence having left the Committee, the chair was taken by Dr. Todd, and the Committee proceeded to consider the award of the Royal Medal.

The following papers were named:—

Dr. Barry on Spermatozoa observed in the mammary ovum.

Arthur Farre on the organ of hearing in the Crustacea.

Mr. Newport on the circulation of the Myriapoda.

Dr. Davy on animal heat.

Newport on the reproduction of lost parts in insects.

Mr. Simon on the comparative anatomy of the thymus gland.

Mr. Wilson on the parasitic animalcules in the sebaceous follicles.

Matteucci's electro-physiological researches.

Mr. Wharton Jones on the blood corpuscles.

Mr. Addison on some peculiar modifications of the force of cohesion.

Rigg on the formation and secretion of alkaline earths.

Stephenson on the theory of vision.

Wilson on the growth and development of the epidermis.

Beck on the nerves of the uterus.

Dr. Lee's Supplement to his paper on the nervous ganglia of the uterus.

Dr. Davy on the temperature of man.

It was resolved,—That the Council be recommended to award the Royal Medal in Physiology to Mr. Beck for his paper 'On the nerves of the uterus.'

Dr. Lee's Supplement to his paper on the nervous ganglia referred. WM. LAWRENCE."

Mr. Wharton Jones resuming, said:—If what has now been read be a correct record of what took place at the meeting of the Physiological Committee on the 27th October, 1845, then what I have stated in regard to the meeting of the Committee having been dissolved by Mr. Lawrence, must be incorrect.

At this stage of Mr. Wharton Jones's statement, Mr. Lawrence rose and said that he understood that Mr. Jones intended to ask him some questions as to what took place at the meeting of the Committee of Physiology on the 27th October; he therefore begged that Mr. Jones would now ask them, as he was called away by a pressing engagement.

On this Mr. Jones resumed, and said, My Lord, the questions which I wish to ask Mr. Lawrence are: whether he dissolved the meeting of the Physiological Committee on the 27th October, 1845, at the time he left the chair, or whether, as the minutes would make it appear, he simply transferred the chair to Dr. Todd?

To these questions Mr. Lawrence unhesitatingly answered that he did dissolve the meeting.

Mr. Jones resumed.—From what Mr. Lawrence has stated to the meeting, it appears that when he

left the chair he dissolved the meeting.—(Here Mr. Jones was interrupted by one of the Secretaries, Mr. Christie, who said, "Not dissolved, but adjourned—adjourned.")

On this interruption, Mr. Jones turned to Mr. Lawrence, and repeated his former question, and Mr. Lawrence distinctly answered, "I dissolved the meeting;" and then added, "the meeting was broken up." And to a question from Mr. Warren, viz. whether, supposing there had been more business brought forward, he could have stayed longer at the meeting, Mr. Lawrence answered, "I could have stayed longer had there been any business to transact." This question was twice repeated by Mr. Warren, and received the same answer.

Mr. Jones resuming, went on to say:—It being thus proved that when Mr. Lawrence left the chair he dissolved the meeting, it is quite evident that all that has been read from the minute-book of the Committee of Physiology of what took place subsequently, is no record of any part of the proceedings of the Physiological Committee at their meeting of the 27th of October, 1845, but mere unauthorised interpolation, and as such ought forthwith to be erased.

2. I now come to the evidence as to the circumstances under which the award of the Royal Medal was actually made by the President and Council. This I will arrange under three heads, viz. evidence as to the circumstances under which the award of the Royal Medal was for the first time voted by the President and Council; evidence as to the circumstances which led to the Report I have already referred to being drawn up; and evidence as to the circumstances under which the award was for a second time voted, and the Medal given away before the vote was confirmed. In reference to the circumstances under which the award was for the first time voted by the President and Council, I would beg that the minutes of the meeting of the Council on the 30th October be read. (The printed minutes were read, and found to contain nothing relating to the award.) That the award of the Medal was voted by the President and Council at the meeting of the 30th October, 1845, does not appear from the minutes which have now been read. But that it was so voted, I believe has not been denied—it has, indeed, been repeatedly admitted.

Here the noble President rose and admitted that the award had been voted on the 30th of October, but that when the irregularities connected with the recommendation of Mr. Beck's paper for the award became known to the Council, they rescinded the resolution, and erased the minute.

Mr. Jones resumed.—It thus appears that the resolution came to by the Council on the 30th of October, to award the Royal Medal in Physiology to Mr. Beck, was rescinded, and the minutes erased. I have therefore nothing more to say on the point, but proceed to the circumstances which led to the report being drawn up. About the middle of November, and two weeks after the meeting at which the President and Council had thus voted the award of the Royal Medal in Physiology, the requisition I have already referred to was sent to the Committee of Physiology for a statement of the grounds upon which the recommendation of the award of the Royal Medal in Physiology had been founded. In reference to this, I would beg that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee of Physiology of the 20th of November, 1845, be read.

Mr. Bell hereupon read as follows:

"Resolved,—That Dr. Todd and Dr. Sharpey be requested to draw up a report on the claims of Mr. Beck's paper to the award of the Royal Medal; and that Mr. Beck's paper be sent in succession to the several members of the Committee of Physiology resident in London."

Mr. Jones, repeating the last words of the resolution, viz. "That Mr. Beck's paper be sent in succession to the several members of the Committee of Physiology resident in London," went on to say:

What was the object of thus sending the paper to the several members? was it that they might learn for the first time what was in the paper?—Here, my Lord, we have an extraordinary combination of contradictions. We have a requisition sent to the Physiological Committee for a statement of the grounds of the recommendation of Mr. Beck's paper, for the award of the Royal Medal in Physiology, about three weeks after the award had been voted! And in order to answer this, we have the Physiological Committee applying themselves to learn what was in the paper, after it had been recommended for the award!

I now beg that the minutes of the meeting of the Physiological Committee of the 27th of November, 1845, be read. (The minutes read by Mr. Bell.)—From these minutes it appears that at this meeting the report on Mr. Beck's paper by Drs. Sharpey and Todd was read and adopted; but do these minutes record all that took place at the meeting?

Here Mr. Gray rose, and said that he supposed that in asking the question Mr. Jones referred to some motion that he, Mr. Gray, made, and which was seconded by Mr. Lawrence, to the effect, so far as he could remember, that the minute of the 27th October, recommending Mr. Beck's paper for the Royal Medal, be rescinded.

Mr. Wharton Jones continuing:—I now come to the circumstances under which the award was for the second time voted. For evidence on this head I beg that the minutes of the meeting of the Council on the 1st of December, 1845, be read.

The minutes contained the report from the Committee of Physiology on the claims of Mr. Beck's paper, the reading of which Mr. Jones waived; but the noble President read the last paragraph. The rest of the minutes were as follows:

"Read,—Letters from Mr. T. W. Jones and from Dr. Robert Lee on the subject of the award of the Royal Medal.

Resolved,—That the Royal Medal in Physiology for the present year be awarded to Thomas Snow Beck, Esq., for his paper entitled 'On the nerves of the uterus,' which has been ordered for publication in the *Philosophical Transactions*."

Mr. Jones resumed: From these minutes it would appear that the Council, by a new resolution, voted the award on the 1st of December, on the strength of the report of the Committee of Physiology. In reference to this resolution, I would ask: the mere order for insertion in the *Philosophical Transactions*, does it bring a paper within the meaning of her Majesty's regulations?

Here the Noble President rose and said, he would answer the question by at once admitting that it did not bring the paper within her Majesty's regulations; but Mr. Christie, the Secretary, rose and said, that it had taken place before that Royal Medals had been awarded for papers not yet published in the *Philosophical Transactions*. Mr. Jones, however, maintained that there was no such precedent. For, said he, if we look into the announcements in the *Phil. Trans.* (a list of which he exhibited), we shall find that all the Royal Medals on her Majesty's foundation are stated to have been given for papers published in the *Phil. Trans.*, with the single exception of the Royal Medal in Physiology for 1845.

In conclusion, my Lord, I would ask, What is the character of the report on the strength of which the Council did re-vote the award? The report, my Lord, does not truly represent the paper (*confusion*); the report is not justified by the contents of the paper; but, as your Lordship is aware, does, as I have stated in a communication to the Council, contain allegations, some of which betray ignorance on the part of the Physiological Committee, whilst others are altogether inconsistent with common matter of fact. This, my Lord, is my case; and I believe it is such as to warrant me in proposing for the adoption of this meeting the following resolution:

"Resolved,—That it is the opinion of this Special General Meeting of the Royal Society of London for improving Natural Knowledge, that the award of the Royal Medal in Physiology for 1845 was made under circumstances characterised by great irregularity, and in violation of her Majesty Queen Victoria's Regulations, viz. 'That the Royal Medals be given for such papers only as have been presented to the Royal Society, and inserted in their *Transactions*;' and that therefore the said award ought to be considered as null and void."

Dr. Copland, in seconding the resolution just moved by Mr. W. Jones, said that any remark which he could offer on the proceedings now exposed could only weaken the strong impression which they could not fail to make on this meeting, especially as these statements were corroborated and were admitted by the noble President. Dr. C. would therefore merely observe, that it is most important as regards the honour of the Royal Society, and the credit of science in this country, that the awards of the Royal Medals should be made without irregularity, and without unfavourable imputations of any kind. It would not signify much how the present meeting might decide as to the proposed resolution, or as to whatever amendment might be moved, inasmuch as the unanswerable statements now made, and the admissions of the noble Marquis, would lead to an improved state of proceedings in future; and the requisitionists would thereby attain all the objects which induced them to request the Council to call this Special General Meeting.

The President now admitted, that as the paper to which the Royal Medal in Physiology in 1845 was awarded by the Council had not been inserted or printed in the *Philosophical Transactions*, it did not come within the terms of the Queen's regulations, and consequently was not eligible for the award. It is my distinct opinion, said his Lordship, and he was ready to admit that the Council committed a mistake in awarding the Medal to a paper which had not been printed in the *Philosophical Transactions*. Our decision was erroneous, he added; we misinterpreted the terms. The irregularity of the award must be admitted from the paper not having been printed in the *Transactions*. We admit that we committed an error; but Dr. Lee and Mr. W. Jones, who protested against the award on the 1st of December, were equally unacquainted with the regulations.

Dr. Lee here rose, and said that he was fully aware before the 1st of December that the paper was not eligible for the award; and he stated that in the Committee of Physiology on the 27th of November, it had been pointed out in the most distinct and positive manner that a Medal could not, by the Queen's regulations, be legally awarded to the paper in question.

The President replied, that the Council and Committee of Physiology were not the same bodies. Whatever punishment the Society might inflict, said his Lordship, for the error committed by the Council, it must fall on himself and the two Secretaries, Dr. Roget and Mr. Christie; for of the other members of the Council in 1845 there were none in office in 1847. When the mistake was discovered, the recurrence of a similar error was rendered impossible by a new regulation adopted by the Council.

Prof. Bell said, he would make a few observations on the acts of the Committee of Physiology of the 27th October, 1845. He admitted that the statement of Mr. W. Jones was substantially correct. Circumstances, however, had occurred in that Committee which, unless explained, might lead to erroneous conclusions about the manner in which the members conducted themselves. He had nothing to do with the legality of the award of the Medal by the Council. On the 27th of October, the Committee met for the purpose of considering the recommendation of the Medals to the Council. Immediately after the Copley Medal had been con-

sidered, the question was, whether there was any further business. Dr. Roget stated that the Physiological Medal did not come under consideration that year. Mr. Lawrence left in haste; and in such haste that no other member of the Committee had left the room: and on that day there was not on his (Mr. B's.) part any knowledge whatever, or supposition that the members were going into any other business. The meeting was dissolved. The members that remained were conversing together in little knots as was usual after business. In this state, Dr. Roget said that he was in error, and that the Committee had to recommend the Royal Medal in Physiology that day.

Here Dr. Roget rose, and stated that he mistook a Physical for a Physiological Medal.

Dr. R. discovered, continued Mr. B., on looking into the *Philosophical Transactions*, that it was a Physiological Medal that they were to award. The members, in consequence, reconstituted themselves into a Committee without Mr. Lawrence. They then entered into the consideration of the merits of all the papers mentioned in the minutes; and agreed to recommend the award of the Royal Medal to Mr. Beck. On the 6th of November the next meeting of the Committee took place; Mr. Lawrence was in the chair, and he confirmed the minutes. He made no observations at the time.

Mr. Warren inquired if the minutes had previously been read before Mr. Lawrence confirmed them. To which Mr. Bell replied, that it was the custom for the minutes to be read before being confirmed; but he could not positively affirm that it was done on this occasion. The proceedings of the Committees of the 20th and 27th November were then narrated by Mr. B.

Here Mr. W. Jones rose to speak, but was not permitted by the President.—Cries of "Spoke, spoke!" from several quarters. Afterwards he was allowed to reply, and commented in severe terms on the conduct of the unauthorised meeting of the Physiological Committee.

Professor Owen rose, and proceeded to give an account of the manner in which he first became acquainted with Mr. Beck's paper, in order that he might remove an impression which must have been made, that the members of the Committee of Physiology were wholly unacquainted with it when the award was recommended by them. He said he had been requested, at different times, by Dr. Lee, with whom he had long been on terms of intimacy, to see his dissections and preparations; from Mr. Beck, with whom he was almost entirely unacquainted, he had received similar invitations.—Here cries of "order, order," stopped the Professor; and the President said the question before them was not the truth or error of any opinions or representations.

Mr. Gray, after observing that he had been one of those who actively opposed the award, moved the following amendment, which was seconded by the Rev. R. Sheepshanks:

"That whereas the President of the Society has already expressed from the chair an opinion on the irregularity which attended the award of the Royal Medal in 1845; and whereas the Council issued their regulation with regard to the Royal Medals as soon as they discovered that those enacted in 1838 were inconsistent with the royal grant; it therefore does not seem expedient to the present meeting that any further proceedings should be taken in the matter."

Dr. Todd rose, as one of the authors of the report, to protest against the statement which Mr. W. Jones had made, that the report contained allegations, some of which betrayed ignorance on the part of the Physiological Committee, and some of which were inconsistent with common matter of fact.

Dr. Sharpey rose and joined in this protest.

Dr. Webster observed, he felt anxious to set himself right with the Society, respecting his objection to the award of the Royal Medal made at

the meeting of the 1st December, as it was only very recently he had become aware of this fact, after reading the printed minutes of the Council, in which the only notice of the Medal being awarded bears that date. He had previously understood from some Fellows, that it was voted on the 30th October; but as his Lordship now acknowledged the former proceedings were irregular, and had been rescinded, and the minute erased, his opinion was confirmed, that the award of the 1st December was not valid.

Sir J. W. Lubbock thought that the passing of the resolution, moved by Mr. Wharton Jones, would be a vote of censure on the Council, although it appeared from the whole history of the transactions, that there was not the slightest knowledge on their part that they were in any way transgressing the regulations of her Majesty under which they acted. He (Sir J. W. L.) was present at the Council on the 1st December, 1845, and on the strength of the Report from Drs. Sharpey and Todd he had voted for the award, considering it eligible.

Dr. Bright, as one of the Requisitionists, wished to say that he was glad this inquiry had taken place. He expressed unqualified confidence in the honour of all the members of the Council and Committee of Physiology, and added, that he would as readily trust them as he would his own father. He was glad that the Council had been afforded an opportunity of making the explanations which the meeting had heard, and he trusted that regularity would be observed in all future proceedings.

Mr. Warren had expected that several subjects and the names of several gentlemen would have been introduced into this discussion which had not been so. The discussion had been narrowed into a very little compass, the President having ruled that nothing which went on in the Physiological Committee, but only the dry legality or illegality of the recommendation and award of the Medal, should be discussed. Both these are now formally admitted to have been illegal, and to such an extent and importance as to render necessary what has been effected,—a permanent alteration of our regulations in that respect. Though the matter has been thus narrowed, and such only the results of our meeting, he rejoiced that it had taken place. He (Mr. W.) was satisfied that there had been great and gross irregularity and illegality in their proceedings. He had listened to them with equal pain and astonishment, having come hither in an honest and impartial spirit, a Fellow of the Royal Society, to see whether there was really any ground, as has been strenuously asserted from without, for impugning not only the legality, but the *bona fides* of the proceedings of those members of our body on whom we had devolved such important functions. He (Mr. W.) could not go into matters which his Lordship had thought proper to prohibit in this discussion; but he held it to be a matter of vital consequence to the reputation of the Royal Society, both in this country and abroad, not only that its Medals should be conferred with scrupulous propriety and justice, but that the *donee* of its Medals should have obtained that Medal in such a manner as to enable him ever after to wear it with conscious credit and honour. Whether it had been so in the present case had not been an object of inquiry to-day, except that its adjudication was attended with proceedings of the greatest possible irregularity and illegality. He (Mr. W.) hoped the result of all this would be, that we should never again have to witness so painful a scene as the present; and that all our proceedings would hereafter be conducted in an unexceptionable manner.

Mr. Babbage observed, that he entirely concurred with those members who maintained that the Society's Medals ought always to be distributed with the most careful regard to justice. Unfortunately, however, this had not been the case; and the members now present would probably learn with astonishment, that the first two Royal Medals awarded by the Council of the Royal Society were deliberately

given in direct and wilful violation of the laws laid down by that very Council; and farther, that when this want of faith was regularly brought before the succeeding Council, they refused to take any steps to restore the character of the Society.

The noble President here rose, and stated that the learned member was not in order, inasmuch as he had referred to other Medals than that of 1845, the only one under discussion.

Mr. Babbage remarked, that he held in his hand the proofs of the assertions he had made: but if the Society were unwilling to listen to him, he should bow to the decision of the President.

Lord Northampton, after having complained of certain anonymous statements which had appeared in the public prints, alleging that he had resigned the President's chair, and that he was opposed to all liberal changes, put the amendment, which was carried almost unanimously.

The foregoing proceedings confirm every statement we have made upon this unfortunate subject. It is now admitted by the President and officers that the award of the Royal Medal of 1845 (in Physiology) was both irregular and illegal. Does not this admission render the award in fact null and void? Or must this judgment be pronounced by the highest tribunal of the Society? That appeal will be made to the Visitors we have no doubt. But we cannot help expressing at once our wonder that with such an admission, and under such circumstances, any one should retain the Medal of 1845 for another hour. Confidence in the justice of such award, and in the scientific value of the researches the object of the award, would at once forego all claim to the questionable honour.

ROYAL INSTITUTION.

Feb. 12th.—Dr. Paris in the chair. Mr. Apsley Pellatt "On the manufacture of ornamental glass," explained that the refractive pellucid colourless brilliancy of flint-glass was owing to the presence of lead; and that flint-glass, or more properly glass of lead, most resembled rock-crystal or the diamond; and in this branch of the trade, especially as regarded table and chandelier glass, the British glass-manufacturers were pre-eminent, and superior to their continental rivals. The entire manipulation in the making of a wine-glass, jug, barometer-tube drawing, patent pillar-moulded vase, were explained in detail both from large diagrams and from the practical exhibition of these processes by two workmen; a furnace having been fitted up by Mr. Pellatt in the theatre of the Institution for the express object; also, salt-cellars were pressed by machinery, bottles blown and moulded, spun-glass drawn, &c. During these operations Mr. Pellatt explained the conditions of whetting off by the application of the sudden contraction of the cold iron tools, so that a slight blow would separate the bowl of a wine-glass from the glass adhering to the blower's crow, that a punty might be applied to the reverse end for shearing and finishing the bowl. The punty is a solid iron cane, with a little hot glass adhering to it for handling glass pieces; which, by partial melting to the glass in the course of manufacture, is again removed by a tap when it is no longer required. The peculiarity of glass welding by contact (impossible if the slightest film of sulphur intervene), and various manipulations, were detailed, particularly the projecting moulded pillars which possessed the refractive and brilliant effect of cut glass; and although invented and introduced a few years since by Mr. James Green as a novelty, it was found, on comparison with a Roman specimen of glass dug up in the city of London, the property of Mr. Roach Smith, apparently to have been manufactured by means of the same appliances as the ancients, the fragments having a perfectly even interior, with a projecting pillared exterior. The difference of glass made by hand and in moulds was stated by the lecturer, as well as the distinction between moulded blow-offs with cut scoloped

edges, which were far superior in the interior polish, as contrasted with articles, such as dishes and salt-cellars, pressed in moulds by mechanical power, as introduced by the American system, whose interior surfaces were uneven and ruffled, by the metal plunger not always being kept sufficiently hot. An ingenious cylindrical vial mould, for blowing bottles without seam, of uniform sizes, was used; and bottles were manufactured both from it and the ordinary open and shut moulds, which will be polished and clean blown, provided the inside of the moulds are kept at nearly the same heat as the temperature of the glass blown in them. The elasticity of glass was exemplified by glass balls of about three inches diameter rebounding from a polished iron slab three-fourths of the height from which they were dropped, as well as by blowing glass so attenuated as to be sustained some short time floating in the atmosphere; this is technically called glass frost. Annealing and its effects were briefly stated. The process of casing (called by the French *doublé, triplé*, &c.) colours upon white glass was then practically shown by the workmen, who covered a white glass toilet-bottle with blue, about the thickness of an egg-shell; and Mr. Pellatt displayed a vase of the exact size and shape of the Portland vase, manufactured at the Falcon Glass-works with a thick interior coating of dark blue glass, upon which a thin white enamel of glass casing was laid: his engraver had cut away parts of the white, leaving masses of blue in the neck and upper part of the vase exposed to view, and had chased out at the lathe, with the engraving-tool, a portion of the bas-relief.

A full size drawing of a double-handled vase, without foot, now in the Museum of Naples, was exhibited, made of blue glass, and cased with white enamel, with handles, from which were engraved in relief an elaborate arabesque subject, with a group of Bacchanalian boys under each handle. In design and artistic power it is considered by Zahn as second only to the Portland vase. This vase was found in Pompeii in the year 1837. Mr. Pellatt stated that Mr. Wigell, the celebrated gem-engraver, had expressed a desire to make an exact copy in glass of the Portland vase, provided he could set apart adequate professional time for the object; and Mr. P. expressed his determination to aid this patriotic intention, pledging his Firm to its execution, so far as regarded the manufacture of the crude vase. This species of engraving in relief probably took its rise among the Greek and Roman artists, in imitation of real bas-relief gems. Many rough and unfinished specimens are to be seen in the British Museum. Modern engraving of rough patterns upon transparent glass cannot be traced earlier than the Venetians. A lathe, a copper wheel, and emery-powder for the rough grounds, and a lead wheel for polishing, are the engraver's tools. Specimens were on the table, as worked by the lathe. Glass-cutters' iron wheels for cutting, used with wet sand; stone wheels, used for smoothing with water, and wood wheels for polishing with pumice, and afterwards with putty powder, were slightly explained from the specimens exhibited. Flint-glass decanters, roughed, smoothed, and polished, were shown; also four polished cut decanters, of one uniform shape and size, but varying in strength, to exemplify the difference of brilliancy; that with ten faces of flutes on the cylindrical body being least refractive, and that with six faces or fluting being most refractive; and the eight fluted and ten fluted ranging between the two extremes in refractive effect; the condition of pellucid refractibility depending upon the greatest projection of angle, in proportion to the greatest quantity of flat surface cut away from the exterior of the cylinder (the interior remaining circular). The last glass manipulation of the workmen was drawing Venetian filigree cane. Threads of white and coloured glass were placed vertically around the extremity of the interior of a brass mould; a solid flint-glass ball was blown into the interior of the threads, welding the latter to the outside of the

ball, and drawn as tube and cane is usually drawn, except that each workman twisted in an opposite direction, as they retired from each other to lengthen and attenuate the filigree cane; which, being whetted off into such lengths as may be required, is afterwards used for wine-glass stems, or made up into vases, pateras, and other filigree objects of taste. Specimens of mosaic glass were also shewn and explained, by which pictures, as described by Winkelman, were made, by welding lengths of small cane to each other, the patterns being previously sectionally arranged to required variety of colour, &c.; so that when massed together by fusion, the whole shall appear homogeneous. These are cut off into slabs at right angles to the length; so that the subject or pattern is repeated on each slab. Venetian millefiore glass was explained to consist of single canes of filigree glass, cut off into small lozenges, and placed side by side, and welded to white flint-glass, forming a sort of mosaic work. The manner of making *schmelzt* and *vitro de trino* was slightly alluded to, and Mr. Pellatt stated that he had tried to imitate the projecting crystal forms divided by concave fissures of the Venetian frosted glass, and had failed, as he had plunged the manufactured article while hot into cold water, which only dislocated the interior particles of the glass, leaving the surface nearly smooth; whereas his friend Mr. Green had chilled the glass in water in the earlier process of the manufacture, which being afterwards rewarmed at the furnace and expanded by blowing, separated the crystals from each other, leaving the fissures between identically with the Venetian; apparently full of fractures, but really whole and entire. The enclosing of cameos in shut-up pockets was explained. A beautiful specimen of pedestal, with a caryatides enclosure in solid glass, also bricks of glass, with written and composition inscriptions incrustated, were on the table.

Mr. Pellatt concluded by bearing public testimony to the workmen for their willingness and success, notwithstanding the short time of fusion, and the comparative incompleteness of the furnace; and by sincerely thanking the possessors of ancient glass who had kindly lent him specimens, or given him access to their collections.

We can bear public testimony most faithfully to the pre-eminence of British glass-manufacturers in table and chandelier glass, not only from the specimens exhibited by Mr. Pellatt, but likewise from a visit this week to the show-rooms of Messrs. Osler in Oxford Street. The object of our attendance there, and the principal attraction, was a candelabrum, with twenty-four holders for wax-lights, representing a palmira-tree, resting on the floor, and rising to the height of seventeen feet, designed by Mr. Follett Osler, and executed to the order of Ibrahim Pacha. For "colourless brilliancy," and brilliant prismatic colour, this ingenious and magnificent vitreous structure exceeds any thing we have ever seen. No description could do justice to it: the pair, with their forty-eight lights, in a princely room, will be a superb sight. We were much gratified also with the numerous productions of Mr. Osler's factory pointed out to us, from the rich chandeliers to the novel Wenham-ice centre-glasses, and the sherry-cobler goblets and "glass straws."

LITERARY AND LEARNED.

UNIVERSITY INTELLIGENCE.

CAMBRIDGE, Feb. 10th.—The following degrees were conferred:—*Masters of Arts*.—C. W. D. Moore, St. John's College; T. A. Anson, Jesus College; W. Carter, Queen's College.

BRITISH ARCHEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

Feb. 12th.—The Treasurer in the chair. The chairman, after announcing presents of books (among which were some from foreign societies), observed that it was pleasing to notice the favourable manner in which the proceedings of the Association

had been estimated by scientific bodies and by eminent antiquaries on the continent. M. de Caumont, one of the leading members of the Society of Antiquaries, had translated some of the papers published by the Association for a late volume of his well-known *Cours d'Antiquités*; and valuable communications on the subjects discussed at the meetings had been received from other foreign antiquaries.

Mr. Chaffers exhibited a brass matrix of a large circular seal, forwarded by Mr. W. Smart, which had been discovered near Wimbourne, Dorset. It bore the device of "a pelican in her piety," as it is heraldically termed,—wounding her breast to feed her young, who are in a nest upon a tree with spreading branches, around which is the following legend:

† Jesu me smyte smertte
Deep into ye hertte.

Mr. Chaffers ascribed the seal to the thirteenth century; and stated that in the list of deans of Wimbourne was one Walter Hertte, who died A.D. 1467, whose name he should have been disposed to recognise in the last word of the inscription, did not the seal bespeak a somewhat earlier origin.

Mr. C. Warne communicated an account of his researches in conjunction with Messrs. Hall and Shipp, and the late Mr. Sydenham, in the Dorsetshire barrows, and particularly those on the Came Downs, the property of the Hon. Colonel Damer. Some of these were of immense size; one contained nearly 2000 cartloads of soil. They have all been levelled; but Mr. Warne has supplied the Association with details of their construction, and of the relics discovered in them.

Mr. G. Isaacs read a paper on an enamelled ark and plate exhibited to the meeting by himself and the Rev. H. Crowe. They were of the kind now generally known by the term "champ-leve," a technical expression, limited to those enamels for which the field or ground was first prepared by tooling out the metal, leaving slender lines to define the outline and chief features of the design. The cavities thus made were filled with enamel, and the metal left visible was then gilt and burnished. The best works of this nature were executed in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, to which latter period he attributed the ark. The subject upon it was the murder of Thomas Beckett, a favourite one, as it appears upon several other arks, or shrines, or chrisamatories, as they are often called. The plate Mr. Isaacs considered to be a century earlier. The design represented the sepulture of a person of consequence, whose name occurs in an inscription, of which the following translation was given by Mr. W. H. Rogers: "His art was before gold and gems. He, Henry, before all as an inventor, gives, while living, presents in brass to God. His life places him (who is equal to the Muses in intelligence, and before Marcus in oratory) on a level with the saints in fame. As a servant sent before, he fashions gifts acceptable to God. May an angel after the gifts snatch the giver to heaven! Yet should it not accelerate or excite thy grief, O England, for him to whom peace, war, activity, and rest are equal." Mr. Isaacs considered that the place of manufacture of this beautiful relic was Limoges, but, as the inscription indicated, that the person represented was an Englishman; and he assigned reasons for, believing him to be no less than Henry de Blois, Bishop of Winchester, and grandson of William the Conqueror.

Mr. Clark forwarded drawings of several mediæval rings found at Chesterford. The question of the authenticity of the leaden seal of Berenger, the Grand Master of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, which was exhibited at a former meeting by Mr. Haggard, was again brought forward. Mr. Purland stated that he now felt convinced that his seal, which he had purchased as the original one, was nothing more than a clever counterfeit, executed by Mr. Doubleday of the British Museum. He had ascertained that the genuine seal, from

which several casts had been made, was found at St. Albans, and not, as had been stated, at the Temple Church.

Mr. Smith read an account by Mr. Bateman of the discovery, near York, of a large quantity of bronze celts and tools; some of the latter, from the drawings exhibited, closely resembled those used by carpenters at the present day.

Communications were also read from Messrs. Lower, Price, Macneel, &c.; and Mr. Dunkin gave the particulars relating to the recent destruction of the ancient ruins near Fawkham Church, Kent, for the purpose of mending the roads.

STATE PAPERS AND RECORDS.

THE expediency of erecting a building of sufficient magnitude, and fitting security and accommodation, to preserve the historical and legal monuments of the empire, has been of late a good deal discussed. Our able contemporary the *Spectator* enforces the immediate necessity by strong argument. It states that "the rebuilding of the British Museum cost something not far from 1,000,000l.; and the public records are four times the cubic bulk of the MSS. and printed books of the Museum." And adds, "we do not know what the new record depository will cost, but its style will be less expensive, and probably 300,000l. may suffice. Cost what it may, however, the outlay must be incurred. Centuries of neglect and makeshifts bring their own expenses to be reckoned some day; and true economy in this case will be best secured by setting to work without further procrastination."

Various sites are mentioned as eligible, such as the Rolls Estate in Chancery Lane, now covered with old tumble-down houses, and the vacant space on the left of the steps ascending from the park close to the State-Paper Office. But wherever the site may be chosen, and whenever the safe repository may be constructed, there is one grand essential matter to be considered; namely, a provision for more ready and convenient access to the documents preserved than has hitherto been attainable by the public. How very few authors have been enabled to consult these masses of invaluable information; and even these few have found them in a condition of utter confusion, and almost sealed from examination by the manner in which they were placed at their disposal. The lights of other days might for all useful purposes be almost as well extinguished as so fenced round and hidden. Let us hope, then, that the new house will be framed for easy and numerous researches; with a staff intelligent and efficient to direct inquiries, and take due care of the literary treasures confided to them; and that from the thousands of dust-buried MSS., for the first time disinterred, we may gather the facts of former ages, and restore our history, at least, to a larger share of integrity and truth.

LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK:—

Monday.—Geographical, 8½ P.M.; British Architects, 8 P.M.; Medical, 8 P.M.
Tuesday.—Medical and Chirurgical, 8½ P.M.; Civil Engineers, 8 P.M.; Zoological, 8½ P.M.
Wednesday.—Society of Arts, 8 P.M.; Geological, 8½ P.M.
Thursday.—Royal, 8½ P.M.; Antiquaries, 8 P.M.; Royal Society of Literature, 4 P.M.; Numismatic, 7 P.M.
Friday.—Royal Institution, Prof. Carpenter, "On the voluntary emotional and automatic movements of animals, and the parts of the nervous system which serve as their respective instruments," 8½ P.M.; British Archaeological, 8½ P.M.; Philological, 8 P.M.
Saturday.—Royal Botanic, 3½ P.M.; Westminster Medical, 8 P.M.

FINE ARTS.

BRITISH INSTITUTION.

No. 1. "Mountain Road in Wales," J. Linnell,—is a rich landscape on a moderate sized canvass; and we may here note that the larger landscapes by Lee, Creswick, and other eminent names do not present any superior qualities for high praise. They are, generally speaking, respectable, but do not advance the reputations of the artists.

No. 2. "Highland Children," &c., W. Simson,

—One of several Highland pieces of familiar life by the same hand: characteristic and clever, but not rising to the higher region even of genre art.

No. 3. "The Lovers' Walk," F. Danby, A.R.A.,—is a striking composition; shadowy and dreamy-imaginative, if

"Darkness be the lovers' light,
And night the lovers' day:"

and a pleasing example of a style so peculiarly cultivated by a poetical painter.

No. 6. "The Holy Well," F. Goodall,—is a little gem in its way; but No. 23, "Irish Courtship," by the same, is a more ambitious effort. The humble Hibernian beauty and her two lovers are well described, and it is easy to foretell a collision in spite of the good humour which marks the majority, including the laughing children. The story is well told; yet we cannot rank Goodall with Wilkie.

No. 13. "Hatton Forge," W. Linton,—is a fair example of his clear and graphic style; and No. 379, the "Campagna," a still more finished and excellent specimen of his powers.

No. 30. "Market Place at Coutances," a genuine bit of D. Roberts, R.A.

Up high, and down low, we can hardly tell what some fifty numbers are.

No. 24. "The Sportsman's Breakfast," R. B. Davis, on the floor, seems to be a clever performance; and near it, No. 29, "Cupid and Campaspe," W. Gale, caught our eye from its position in regard to Etty's No. 206, on the other side of the fireplace; Campaspe put us in mind of the Swan with Two Necks, as the latter, "A Magdalen reading," suggested the idea of a lady with an extra bosom. If ever one of the sex was created to nurse twins, this is the form. But the fascination of colour! The free dash of the positive tints on the back ground, which imparts to the flesh a beauty beyond description, are such achievements as never were surpassed, hardly ever equalled.

No. 31. "An old Mill Pond." One among the best landscapes of Sidney R. Percy.

No. 38. "An Israelite." Indeed a black and dark, but powerful portrait, by Etty.

No. 58. "The Approaching Footstep," a charming composition, by F. Stone, and painted with all his Watteau-like skill and feeling. How any one must like to be the footstep, so listened for by so captivating a creature!

No. 89. "The Fronde Riots," J. Gilbert,—is one of the very few attempts at high art; and though we cannot speak very eulogistically in its praise, we can justly say that it is not discreditable to the artist's talents. There is too much sameness in the colouring. The Queen's expression is more dignified than natural under her appalling circumstances; and the mobbites seem to us to be too violent in action, not as if called to witness a fact, but to assassinate the young king.

No. 106. "Epstein Castle," G. C. Stanfield, jun.—One to which we alluded as proof of the progress making by some of our rising school. This and other pieces by Stanfield the younger shew a noble and successful aspiration to tread upon the heels of his pre-eminent father.

No. 114. "A Moorish Girl," 129. "The Spanish Domino," &c., bear pleasant testimony to the talents of T. Ellerby, as do a group of painters' heads, No. 143, to the taste and skill of T. Woodward.

Several other pictures in the north room will receive our future attention; but for a conclusion to our present notice we must step out of it into the middle-room, in the midst of which is the most able historical production of the year. No. 365. "The last moments of Mary Queen of Scots," by Alex. Fraser. The fatal subject is treated with infinite feeling, and the artistic execution falls little short of the mind's conception. Mary is an abstraction from the world; living on the verge of death; absorbed in devotion, and regardless alike of the political and polemical persecution which insulted her to the scaffold. Two of

her Marys (where was the third?) are steeped in grief and despair. Their earthly distress contrasts finely with the resignation of their doomed mistress; whilst the faithful Melvill, grovelling on the earth, presents a yet more touching example of faithful attachment and inconsolable sorrow. The group of English Commissioners on the right is well composed; but still more admirable are the figures of the two executioners. All the minor characters and parts are suited to the awful scene; and the work the best the artist has ever produced, and a high honour to his genius.

THE WELLINGTON STATUE

Was again the subject of notice in the House of Commons on Monday, in consequence of a question put by Mr. Berkeley to Lord Morpeth. The answer was not decisive, but it appears that the sub-committee are to direct the upper part of the scaffolding to be removed, that a more perfect view of the statue may be obtained, so as to enable a better judgment to be formed of its effect upon the arch. Should that be pronounced to be unfavourable, the statue will be taken down, and in all probability erected on a suitable pedestal on the northern side of Waterloo Place, Pall Mall. This is an eligible site; but with regard to the affair altogether, and its backward and forward moves, we are inclined to think that a vast majority of the public will agree with us in two things:

1st, that the group is very well where it is; and, 2dly, that if it be pre-determined by the Government to displace it, it is rather a hardship to victimise the artist in the cost of removing the massive wood-work, and restoring it again merely to dismount his ten years' labour.

The charges, amounting to a good many hundred pounds, must come out of his pocket; for the Committee have no funds but his; and unless there were, which we apprehend there is not, a fair chance for the *statu(e) quo*, it does seem rather like putting him between the blades of the scissors to compel the sculptor, who has simply executed the task assigned him, to undo and do in this idly experimental and expensive fashion.

The Venerable Archdeacon Thorp.

A PORTRAIT of this eminent churchman, the warden of Durham University, engraved by G. R. Ward, after a painting by J. R. Swinton, is a fine specimen of a mild but highly intellectual countenance. There is great simplicity in the attitude and poise of the head; a little bit of architecture (Durham College we presume) let in, is a graceful accessory, and adds variety to the effect.

William Mackenzie.

A WHOLE length, painted by T. H. Illidge, and engraved by G. R. Ward, represents the famed French railroad-contractor, and looks as like a king as Hudson himself: stout, burly, energetic, marked features, and a capacious forehead. The background is very cleverly executed.

SKETCHES OF SOCIETY.

MARQUIS OF NORTHAMPTON'S SOIRÉE.

THE personal esteem in which the noble President of the Royal Society is held by all ranks of the community, from prince and peer to the humblest of those who have achieved any distinction in arts, sciences, literature, or useful improvements, was fully testified last Saturday, when, in spite of the severity of the weather, his first *soirée* was crowded by such an assemblage of the elevated in station and the eminent for genius and talent, as could rarely be convened, even in our teeming metropolis. Prince Albert was among the visitors, a list of whom would fill this page; and therefore we will only state generally, that the kindest intercourse shone over the evening; and the reception and entertainment were all that refined courtesy and graceful liberality could supply.

A pneumatic machine (Mr. Hutchinson's spirometer for measuring the vital capacity of the

lungs, with a view to establishing a precise and easy method of detecting disease) was one of the most amusing attractions in the rooms. It was laughable to see with what curious avidity even the philosophers applied to have a sort of peep into futurity, by learning to what height they could blow up the cylinder whose index was to shew whether their bellows were in strength or weakness. The common average standard, we believe, is 180°; and as the machine rose or fell short of this measure, it was ludicrous to mark the exulting or blank looks of the aspirants. Wasted with a poor puff, some would give in at 70° or 90°; whilst others exhausted their wind to the last breath, but were exceedingly lively at 210°, 220°, or 230°. One stout-lunged and distinguished gentleman, whose recent discoveries in science prove that he can reach pretty high above the generality in those pursuits, actually raised the tube to 300°—the maximum of the night!

There were many other novelties; amongst them we noticed:

Little's double-action printing-machine for working daily newspapers at a speed varying from 10,000 to 12,000 copies per hour; the average rate of production of the present machines in use being not more than 4500 per hour. The present "Fast Machine" works with four cylinders, constantly revolving in one direction, producing two printed sheets with every backward and forward motion of the type. The "Double-Action Machine" works with eight cylinders, six of which have a reversing motion, and produces seven printed sheets with every transverse motion of the type. The working model, exhibiting the operation of feeding and taking away, with the interior arrangement of tapes, rollers, printing-cylinders, &c., attracted considerable attention.—Mr. Reinagle's new locomotive clasp for connecting railway-carriages; a chain and tongue passing into a cylinder, and there retained with great force, but released at the will of the guard with a slight lifting of a lever. To this facility of disconnecting is attributed a considerable promise of safety.—Mr. Cheverton's machine carving: the principal specimen was a reduced copy of a bust of Lord Compton; the closest inspection of the marble and ivory could not detect the least difference of feature or expression.—Mr. Cox's electrotypes, colossal heads, masques, vases, &c.; metallic fac-similes of the treasures of the British Museum admirably executed.—Mr. Claudet's specimens of daguerreotypes, taken in dull November and December, exhibiting curious effects of photography; a negative and positive picture on the same plate; photographic action prevented by the interposition of red glass; and not only this protecting property, but a restoration, by the red glass, of a solarised plate to an unaffected state; besides several novel results, aids to the unravelling of the mystery of heliography. One very interesting specimen developed the power of the sun's image to reverse his own act, his passage across a solarised plate being evidenced by a reproduction of its primitive condition. Dr. Draper has likewise established the protecting or negative ray, and its reversing power; but M. Claudet's investigations have, we understand, been carried farther, and a paper upon the subject has been for some time preparing for the Royal Society.

Mr. Perigal exhibited and explained a variety of experiments, with a view to elucidate the theory of revolution and rotation, especially referring to the hypothetical motions of the moon, to account for her presenting towards us always the same face or hemisphere. One of his instruments imparted to three ivory balls movements similar to those ascribed to the moon in each of three hypotheses: and the path which the component atoms of the moon would in each case describe in space was made evident to the eye by another little instrument, which he called a kinesiograph. With the aid of maps, on which were accurately laid down the portions of the moon in accordance with the seven-

ral hypotheses, these instruments and other auxiliary contrivances afforded ocular demonstration, that of the three the last is the only one that will bear investigation:

1. That the moon revolves round the earth, and rotates on her own axis, in the same period, and in the same direction.

2. That the moon revolves round the earth, and rotates on her own axis, in the same period, but in contrary directions.

3. That the moon revolves round the earth, but does not rotate on her own axis. This single circular motion would cause the moon to have one sidereal day and night every time she revolved round the earth; because she would thereby turn round as regards the stars, while her aspect to the earth being unchanged by her orbital motion, she would have no alternation of terrestrial day and night; but the same hemisphere would be constantly presented to the earth, and we should see the same face perpetually.—This single motion would cause all the component atoms of the moon to describe round the earth concentric circles varying in size according to their radial distance from the centre of revolution.

Mr. Perigal says, that if the moon be the satellite of the earth, revolving round him as her centre of motion, any simultaneous rotation about her own axis is impossible if it be true that she always presents towards us the same hemisphere; a fact which there seems no reason to doubt. Or if she rotates on her own axis, she cannot also revolve round the earth as her centre of motion. She may rotate, and also revolve, though not round the earth; but if she have both motions, she cannot be the satellite of the earth.

BIOGRAPHY.

SHARON TURNER, ESQ.

ON the morning of Monday, the 13th instant, this venerable and venerated author died at the house of his son, in Red Lion Square, at the patriarchal age of three score and eighteen years. His literary works have long established his name as among the foremost of English historians. His were the earliest and most laborious and successful efforts to penetrate the darkness which hung over our Anglo-Saxon annals, and thence illustrate the period of the deepest import to our country's history. He not only broke up this ground, but cultivated it with diligence and skill, till it produced a memorable and gratifying harvest. Since this was done, other individuals have followed up the research, and adorned the literature, arts, and social system of our Saxon ancestors, with elucidations of great national interest; but we must never forget that the prime impulse was given by Sharon Turner. No wonder that he was beloved by his family, and sincerely esteemed and respected by a numerous circle of friends. Through every position of his life—judging by the testimony of the oldest of these and our own conviction, gathered through not a few of his later years—we would say, that in all its various toils and trials, he evinced a most active moral power, great benevolence of character, and extensive charity, combined with the strictest integrity. He was indeed, and truly, one of God's noblest works,—an example to social life, and a distinguished ornament to the literature of his age and country.

We are indebted to a friend for the annexed memoir of this distinguished and lamented individual.

Sharon Turner was born in London, on the 24th September, 1768. His parents were both natives of Yorkshire; the father having left York at an early age, and settled in the metropolis, where he afterwards married. Sharon, the eldest son of the marriage, was principally educated at Pentonville, in the private academy of Dr. James Davis, who was rector of St. James, Clerkenwell; and having chosen the law for his profession, he was articled to an attorney in the Temple, at the age of fifteen. Here he began to acquire his taste for books and

literary studies, filling up the intervals of business with reading and composition. The death of his master before his articles of clerkship were expired, left him at liberty to decide on his future course of life; and at the suggestion of a very kind old client, who promised his support, he took up his master's business, and carried it on in the same chambers he had occupied, and continued to reside there until his marriage in 1795; and there he also began to collect the materials for his *Anglo-Saxon History*, to the composition of which, he mentions in the preface, he was principally led by the death-song of Ragnar Lodbrog; and the work was afterwards published in successive octavo volumes, between 1799 and 1805. The criticism on the first volume of this work which appeared in the *Critical Review* for January, 1800, had the effect of turning Mr. Turner's inquiries more closely to the authenticity of the ancient British poems which the reviewer had assailed; and led to the publication of the vindication of them in a pamphlet, which shewed his own deep acquaintance with the subject, and established the claims of the ancient bards to our attention and respect; while it also induced the author to bestow much pains in revising the "*Anglo-Saxon History*;" and the work took its position amongst the standard literature of the country. Mr. Turner then pursued his design of writing a complete history of this country, formed from the most diligent researches into the various literary treasures open to his patient labour—resolving to state nothing for which he had not consulted and well considered the original authorities. He spent every spare hour which he could command at the British Museum, collecting original materials for his work. The fruits of his labours, as they related to the period extending from the Norman Conquest to the death of Henry VII., were contained in the successive volumes of "*The Middle Ages*," published between 1814 and 1824. The portions of the work which relate to the Maid of Orleans, the Wars of the Roses, and the mediæval literature of England, may be particularly referred to as illustrative of the spirit of the times, the leading actors in them, and the industrious selection of facts unnoticed by preceding historians.

Such was Mr. Turner's remarkable activity and energy of mind, that while pursuing this laborious investigation, and at the same time conducting a considerable professional business, he devoted some hours every day for two years to a thorough examination of the scriptures as a divine revelation. To do this without interfering with his other studies, he arose regularly for many months at five o'clock, and carried out a complete and searching inquiry into all the doubts and difficulties which the spread of French infidel philosophy had made so prominent. The result gave him the ample reward of a firm and full conviction of the truth of divine revelation, and of all the promises and hopes contained in the scriptures, which afterwards, both in sorrow and in joy, formed his greatest happiness and comfort, and which he often used to say nothing could again shake.

In the summer of 1816 an illness came upon him which assumed various forms, and much distressed him; at times it amounted to nervous asthma, of which disease his father had died at the age of 45; and the disturbance and uneasiness which the paroxysms caused, after baffling the skill of his medical friends for nearly three years, compelled him to adopt a rigid system of self-management. After a few years' perseverance, he was enabled to overcome the asthmatic symptoms which had distressed him; but he never regained his bodily efficiency, and to the last days of his life he was repeatedly compelled, for the sake of personal comfort and mental activity, to use much care and abstinence. In 1829, Mr. Turner retired more completely from London, residing principally from that time at Winchester Hill. He had previously published the two quarto volumes of the modern history of England, carrying on the national history to the death

of Elizabeth; he was stimulated to complete this portion by the discussions which were then rife on the Roman Catholic Church and the Reformation, and by the publications of his intimate friends, Mr. Robert Southey and Mr. Charles Butler, on the opposing sides.

Here his infirmities compelled him to stop; to have carried the history further on the same independent principles of research and minute verification of original documents, would have required a personal labour to which his strength was wholly unequal, and would also have entangled him in the political feelings which followed the unhappy disputes between Charles and his parliament.

In 1832, Mr. Turner published the first volume of his "*Sacred History of the World*," and the seeds of this work may be traced in the inquiries he had made into religious truth for his own satisfaction many years before; he recalls in the preface the pleasure with which he first read Dr. Paley's "*Natural Theology*;" this was followed by a second and third volume; his object was to carry out more fully, and in connexion with revelation, the grand leading principle of all his historical works—that minute providential agency, and actual superintending direction of all affairs by the Almighty, which it was his delight to trace.

In 1843, the death of his wife, the affectionate companion of nearly fifty years, much distressed him; he bowed submissively to the will of God, but from that time he suffered more repeated attacks from illness, and declined more in strength: the death of his sister, the last survivor of his father's children, occurred on the 24th of January, 1847, and, about the same time, another return of indisposition compelled him to come to London, where he died peacefully on the 18th instant, soon after midnight, in the 79th year of his age, and in his former residence in Red Lion Square, full of that firm trust in his Saviour which had been his governing principle through life.

He enjoyed friendships with many of the leading literary characters of his day. Of these Cumberland, Tobin, Charles Butler, Prince Hoare, Richard Duppa, Southey, and many others, passed from this earthly scene before him. Mr. Disraeli and Sir Martin Shee are amongst the few who have survived him. He was one of the many proofs this happy country affords of what may be accomplished by energy of mind, economy of time, strict integrity, and persevering industry.

He published, at different periods during his life, the following minor works: A volume of essays and poems, entitled "*Sacred Meditations by a Layman*," "*Proslutions on the Greatness of Britain and other subjects*," and "*Richard III., a Poem*." He also contributed two or three articles to the *Quarterly Review*, soon after it was started by his old friend Mr. Murray; and addressed some letters to the Royal Society of Literature, of which he was an associate, upon the curious affinities between the different languages of the world, and which he thought afforded strong evidence of the confusion of tongues at Babel, and the dispersion of mankind in consequence; these letters have since been reprinted in the last edition of the "*Anglo-Saxons*."

The Duke of Northumberland, as Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, president at the Newcastle meeting of the British Association, and consequently the author of addresses delivered to both these bodies, belongs to our obituary. His grace died suddenly at Alnwick, aged 62, on Friday week, being found a corpse in his bed by his servant on the morning of that day. He was of retiring habits, and only held before the public by his high rank and immense wealth. We have been told that in his earlier years, whether to indulge economic habits or enjoy untrammelled life, he was wont to go incognito into country quarters, and as plain Mr. John Smith, see the world and amuse himself with its various scenes; from which, whenever discovered, he instantly vanished. Lord Powis is spoken of as his probable successor at

Cambridge.* In his titles and estates he is succeeded by his brother, Lord Prudhoe, so well known to literature by his Egyptian researches.

The Rev. J. T. Hewlett.—A fortnight ago the death of Mr. Hewlett, the author of "*Peter Priggin*," "*College Life*," and other popular productions, was announced under painful circumstances in our advertising department. Though we admired his talent and humour, and truly liked the man himself, we could not bestow on these publications the unreserved meed of our approbation. They were somewhat too free; and however clever and lively in other respects, this blemish detracted from their merit as pictures of life for general diffusion where sex, taste, and refinement required food of another description. Smollett would not be thought suitable to the change of manners and greater fastidiousness in speech and writing which has grown up to our present day. And perhaps the objection limited the success of the author's literary performances; and led to a death amid extreme destitution, a prey to legal severities, mental sufferings, and fatal disease. Poor Hewlett, with his fun and jests, let us cast one glance upon him on his death-bed, his abode in possession of the law, his pocket peniless, his nine children helpless, hopeless! what misery, what despair! He was buried at the expense of a Mason Lodge to which he belonged; and we believe the same noble charity extended to the payment of the debt for which his effects were in execution. Need we after this sad plain tale invoke the benevolence of the humane to relieve the distress of his forlorn family? The subscription opened for them has been graciously aided by the Queen Dowager—an everlasting and inexhaustible fount of charitable feeling and help to the afflicted; and also by the Bishop of London, and the Bishop of Llandaff, and other generous persons. But though the appeal has been answered with kindness, it must require more extended sympathy to alleviate the wretchedness of this pitiable case. On its behalf we venture earnestly to solicit that sympathy: it will return in blessings on those who bestow it.—Since writing the foregoing, we have read with gratification an eloquent appeal in the *Times* to the same effect; and we may add, that poor Hewlett's last work was "*Dunster Castle*," a tale of the great Rebellion, and free from any of the objectionable matter which might be detected in his earlier writings.

Truly may we say, "Death's shafts fly thick," since to the obituary we have already penned, we have to add the name of

Macvey Napier, the able editor for many years of that important periodical, *The Edinburgh Review*. Professor Napier was well enough on Monday week to deliver his lecture on Scots Law in the University of Edinburgh; and on Thursday was a corpse. In private life he was warmly esteemed by a very wide circle of men of all opinions and parties, by whom his hospitable, social, and intelligent qualities were duly appreciated.

In London we have lost, on the 17th, *The Venerable Archdeacon J. Holden Pott*, aged 88, and one of the purest ornaments of the English church. He was endowed with the finest taste for the arts, was a very accomplished scholar, and equally a pattern and a friend to literature. His religious publications were at once thoroughly orthodox, consistent, tolerant, excellent in style, and forcible in persuasion and argument.

William Collins, R.A., the beautiful and natural English artist, died on the same day, aged 59. The grace and truth with which he depicted our native landscapes, and peopled them with human life so less congenial to the truth, his sweetness and warmth of colour, and his cheerfulness and captivation of subject, long made him one of the most admired and popular of our school. He visited Italy, and on his return a change of style was visible in

* An invitation to Prince Albert to accept the office is also much discussed.

his productions; but he afterwards resumed more of his first manner. Throughout his whole career he never ceased to be most pleasing and attractive.

In the newspapers we also find the following death announced: "On the 15th inst., of consumption, in Upper Albany-street, Regent's-park, Mr. George Thomas Fisher, author of several works on practical science, and a contributor to the scientific department of periodical review."

THE DRAMA.

Her Majesty's Theatre opened for the season on Tuesday with Donizetti's *Favorita*, and a new ballet, called *Coralia*, by Paul Taglioni. The circumstances under which the present campaign is entered upon are of a very unusual character, and fraught with no little embarrassment and difficulty to the manager, as well as interest, anxiety, and excitement to the singers and the subscribers: the manager and lessee, after some years of regular and easy success, suddenly finds himself deserted by band and singers, chorus and coryphées; and not only so, but a rival establishment formed from his own quondam allies. Whether such treatment was merited, either because Mr. Lumley did not choose to sacrifice all considerations for the sake of retaining the services of M. Costa for conductor, or that the non-subscription nights were made more attractive than subscription ones, or that the musical ensemble was not good enough for our fastidious taste, are questions upon which we will not enter. It must be admitted that he has shewn the true enterprise and spirit of our nation; and from the success which has attended his exertions, merits a good share of our patronage and support. The difficulty of the band, which it was thought impossible to get over, has certainly been completely vanquished; the orchestra is fuller than before, and the performers in no way inferior, as far as we can judge from one hearing, to their predecessors, of whom only the leader, Tolbecque, and second violin, Nadau, remain. We could find more faults in the conducting than in the execution: to preside over such a mine of power requires great self-possession and temper; the difficulty is to avoid urging the players too much in forte passages, and to subdue them enough in piano and accompaniment, especially with regard to the brass instruments. Some of the *crescendo* passages in *Favorita* were done with too much force, so that the effect was harsh, and the tone of the bass instruments bad in quality; while in the accompaniments the voices were constantly drowned. What painters call "keeping" is equally necessary in the treatment of musical works; for if one part is exaggerated, the general effect is marred. *La Favorita* has been made tolerably familiar to us, so that it is not necessary to enter into the merits of the opera, beyond saying that to us it appears to be heavy in music, and "not quite the thing" in sentiment. Its performance on this stage introduced no fewer than four new singers; the tenor, Gardoni, who comes with the prestige of a Continental reputation, is a young singer, with a handsome person and expressive features; his voice, though not powerful, possesses a high chest range, but he uses the falsetto also, which is powerful and in tune: the timbre of his voice is not so sweet and rich as in some, but he uses his organ effectively, and enunciates clearly and with expression. It appeared to us that he sang with too much effort at filling the house, and consequently exhibited no expansion of voice; all his *moreaux* were given too stiffly, with a sort of hardness not pleasing; however, these deficiencies may be remedied by study: he was well received, and encored in his first aria; his acting is graceful and appropriate. The baritone, Superchi, though possessing but little to prepossess in his appearance, surprised us by his excellent singing; with a voice having a good deal of the tenor quality, he sings with very great expression and feeling, and with the most complete mastery. He was much applauded, and will be a very great acquisition, although his acting is not so

graceful as we expect on the Italian stage in England. The basso, Bouche, is, like most others, very heavy and sepulchral in tone, without that richness which belongs to the high bass voices; he will, however, prove a useful singer. The second soprano, Nascio, is of the very mediocre rank. Sanchioli, who took *Leonora*, the principal part of the opera, has not improved since last season; her intonation is occasionally lamentably false, and she attacks cadences in the most reckless manner, both for note and tune. The opera went off well. Mr. Balfe was much cheered on entering the orchestra, and was called on the stage at the end of the opera. Mr. Lumley also made his bow to the audience with very loud applause; Gardoni and Sanchioli were also greeted before the curtain. The National Anthem followed, sung by the whole strength of the company, and the performance ended with the ballet *Coralia*, in which Rosati and Marie Taglioni made perfectly successful *débuts*. The scenery of the ballet is admirably painted, more especially the moonlight scene, in which the water-nymph *Coralia* appears to float on the water.

With the innovations forced upon the lessee, some have been forced on the audience; the old and respected pathway known as "Pop's Alley" is no longer the magic circle round which so many *méchant* sprites used to flit; a deep chasm of cold stone steps breaks it at the centre of the arc, and no communication with the boxes is available but by going into the entrance hall again; which arrangement appears to us very inconvenient, and we heard numerous maledictions pronounced against it.

Drury Lane.—The very sudden illness of Miss Romer on Tuesday evening led to an unexpected disappointment of a crowded house, and a tumultuous row in consequence of the non-performance of the new opera, and the substitution of the *Bondman*. The hubbub lasted through the greater part of the night, and rendered all the earlier attempts at acting mere dumb show on the stage. In vain did the lessee appeal for generosity, promising justice, and asserting the perfect truth of the late intelligence received at the theatre of the accident which prevented the representation announced; and in vain did Mr. Harley offer every sort of reparation; such as the return of money, or the substitution of tickets for the first night of the new opera. The latter was not relished by the malcontents; and the former, it may be surmised, is no very easy arrangement with hundreds of people, a considerable number of whom had come in on free lists and orders, without payment at the doors. This made the "return" not only a difficulty, but a fix; and the question would be, whether or not the exchequer of the night contained a sufficient fund to satisfy all who might be claimants!! The audience, however, had the overture played to them; which, under the circumstances, did not tell very favourably. Mr. Wallace, the composer, is certainly the most to be commiserated, for such an untoward interruption of his hopes. The opera is postponed till Monday: the house has been shut since Tuesday.

French Plays.—On Monday, on the eve of departure, Mdlle. Clarisse appeared in *Marie-Jeanne, ou la Femme du Peuple*—a play new to the English public—and thereby added greatly to the popularity she had already acquired in this country. It exhibits (spun out to too great length, five acts) the sorrows and trials which await the wife of a dissolute artisan. The necessitated abandonment of her child to the fate of the *Enfants trouvés* was an excellent scene,—the best in the play,—between *Marie-Jeanne* and her husband, just as he recovers from a fit of drunkenness; a scene full of pathos and true feeling, and portrayed by Mdlle. Clarisse with great energy. The recognition, too, of her lost child, and her claiming it from the rich and supposititious mother; the passionate manner in which she asserts the holy claims of nature, in defiance of want, and of the enmity of her powerful rival; the treacherous charge of madness brought against her by the doctor, &c., afford Mdlle. Cla-

rise full scope for the display of her talents. She was much cheered, and called for at the close of the piece. This week terminates the engagements of M. F. Lemaître and Mdlle. Clarisse. Monday next will see the return of our old favourites, Lafont, and the arrival of a new star, Mdlle. Fargeuil.

VARIETIES.

College of Preceptors.—The Marquis of Northampton has accepted the office of Patron of the College of Preceptors.

HB. Caricatures.—After a dearth which all the world regrets, HB. has again rejoiced us with a prolific issue of five of his humorous records of our political times. The British Lion poked by Lord Palmerston, the Queen and Prince Albert spectators, has a most sinister glance in his eye. An interesting group represents six strange "bed-fellows," only they are bench-fellows in the House of Commons; and the next has three Hon. Members, Roebuck, Lord G. Bentinck, and Disraeli; the latter receiving a lecture on elocution from the first in a ludicrous posture. The best, however, is Lord John Russell driving Lord G. Bentinck and Sir R. Inglis through the rough road of Irish measures. The likenesses are excellent. The last is a satire on the famous interview in which Guizot assured Lord Normanby that the Queen of Spain would be married first. Louis Philippe is dodging behind a screen. Another very clever hit.

The Whittington Club, an association presenting several novel features, has just been set on foot in the city, with Mr. Douglas Jerrold as its president. The annual subscription is so low as to open the admission to persons of limited means; and the victualling department is announced to be at the cheapest possible rate. Both sexes are eligible to "membership." A library is to be formed; and there are to be reading-rooms, lectures, *conversations*, concerts, gymnastics, and education—all in this comprehensive plan. The first *soirée* was held at the London Tavern on Wednesday evening. We annex a *con.* connected with the name. Why was Whittington the worst alderman that ever lived in London? Give it up! Because he alone had the Cat, and deserved it!

The Health of Towns' Association is carrying on its beneficial measures with great zeal, and we trust with commensurate success; though as yet it can only be ascending to that strength which it ought speedily to attain for the good of the country. A number of cheap publications are explaining its objects, describing the existing evils so essential to be remedied or removed, and soliciting the co-operation necessary to work out those desirable ends. Lord Lincoln's bill lays the foundations out of which it is to be hoped, with the aid of the distinguished committee united in the cause, we may witness the disappearance of defective sewerage, impure, or inadequate supplies of water, unhealthy residences for the poor, and other deplorable conditions which induce disease and death among thousands of our fellow-creatures.

John Walter, Esq.—We regret to see from the Reading newspaper that Mr. Walter has declared his intention not to move again in public life; and still more sorry to hear that his health is in so precarious a state as to forbid the hope of any very lengthened days. Mr. Walter was originally apprenticed to the trade of a bookseller (to the grandfather of the present Messrs. Longmans, we believe), but circumstances occurred to make an alteration in his views; and he adopted that course which led to his connexion with the periodical press, and the progress of his fortunes to immense wealth, influence, and legislative distinction.

Mrs. Butler (Miss Fanny Kemble) has re-appeared upon the stage at Manchester in the *Hunchback*. The house was crowded, and the applause enthusiastic. It is stated that she is to receive 500*l.* for six nights' performances.

Lightning Conductors.—Her Majesty's frigate, *Fisgard*, whilst lying at Nisqually, Puget's Sound, experienced a heavy thunder-storm on the 26th

of September last. Her main-mast was struck by lightning; the shock is described as tremendous, but no damage was sustained by the mast or the ship. The *Fisgard* is fitted with Mr. S. Harris's lightning-conductors, and to their sufficiency, even in such a terrific storm, is her safety attributed.

Celtic Antiquities.—Among other donations to the Royal Irish Academy, recently presented by Dr. Madden, were a stone celt, from the county Antrim; and a similar stone celt, found near the Falls of Niagara.

Mount Vesuvius has resumed an active state, and poured forth a flood of lava, which a Neapolitan punster remarked had changed its face, which ought now to be studied according to the principles of Lavater!

The Literary Gazette promoted to Heaven.—We copy the following dig from the last *Punch*:—"Liberating a Planet. A periodical, talking of the new planet, says: 'Its circulation is so slight as to be scarcely perceptible, and its powers of attraction are limited to a very narrow circle.' The best name for it, considering these attractions, would have been the *Literary Gazette*." Oh fie! cruel, nasty, spiteful hunchback!

LITERARY NOVELTIES.

Lord Brougham, it is reported, is about to give the world a translation of Dante—an exercise of his younger days.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

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DEUTER'S TABLE FOR THE EQUATION OF TIME.
[This table shows the time which a clock or watch should indicate when the sun is on the meridian.]

1847.	h. m. s.	1847.	h. m. s.
Feb. 20	12 14 39	Feb. 24	12 13 32-0
21	13 56-1	25	13 23-7
22	13 48-7	26	13 13-7
23	13 40-7		

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Our Paris Letter this week has not reached us. The days for receiving the pictures at the Suffolk Street Gallery are Monday and Tuesday, the 8th and 9th March. "A Subscriber" at Manchester is informed that the weekly list of books given in the *Literary Gazette* contains all the publications which are subscribed; that is to say, all that are shown to the booksellers for their orders as to the number of copies they will take. Many small productions also issue from the press, of which no list could be collected. Our record is as complete as possible, and has been so for nearly thirty years.

ERRATUM.—In the last line of the first stanza of the "Song of Famine," in our last, for *walking read waiting*.

ADVERTISEMENT.

MISCELLANEOUS.

STAMMERING.—Mr. HUNT begs to announce the commencement of the 30th year of his successful experience in the correction of the above annoying imperfection, according to his system, which involves no surgical operation, nor the use of medicine, but is based on sound physiological and rational principles. Mr. H. purposes remaining in town until the end of June next.

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TO VISITORS TO THE CONTINENT.

Messrs. and R. MCRAKEN, Foreign Agents, and Agents to the Royal Academy, No. 7 Old Jerry, beg to remind the Nobility and Gentry that they continue to receive Consignments of Objects of Fine Arts, Brongnos, &c. from all parts of the Continent, for clearing through the Custom-House, &c.; and that they undertake the Shipment of Effects to all parts of the world.

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of a brilliant and costly character, will close the performance of the evening, and no Discontentment will be suffered between the Acts of Opera. The Director has the pleasure to announce that he has concluded an engagement with Mademoiselle FANNY ESSLER; and, during the Season, the following eminent Dances will appear:

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HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

The Nobility, Gentry, Subscribers to the Opera, and the Public are respectfully informed that THIS EVENING, SATURDAY, Feb. 20, will be repeated Donizetti's celebrated Opera, LA FAVORITA. Alfonso XI. (King of Castile), Signor Superceli, his second appearance; Bal-dassan, Signor Bouché, his second appearance; Leonora, Mlle. San-chioli (her first appearance); Mlle. Nascio, her second appearance in this country.

A new and original Grand Ballet, in five tableaux, by M. Paul Taglioni, entitled, CORALLIA; on, La Cheralier Inconnu. The music by Signor Fugli. The scenery, entirely new, by Mr. Marshall. The appointments by Mr. Bradwell. The costumes by Miss Bradley and Mr. Whales, under the superintendence of Madame Coppe. Corallia (daughter of Fraiandin, the King of the Waters, adopted child of the fisherman Ulrich), Mlle. Corallia Rosati, of the Scala, at Milan, her second appearance; the Knight Huldebrand, M. Paul Taglioni; his Squire, M. Gouret; Bertha (adopted daughter of the Duke), Mlle. Petit; her Pace, Mlle. Honoré; the Duke, M. Gousselin; Fraiandin (the King of the Waters), M. Venesira; the Fisherman, M. Di Mattia, Danca. — Second Tableau: Scene Dansante des Caprices, by Mlle. Corallia Rosati. Third Tableau: Pas de la Nymphé des Eaux et de Ses Compagnes, by Mlle. Corallia Rosati, Mlle. Montfort, Cassan, and the Corps de Ballet. Fourth Tableau: Pas de la Roseire, by Mlle. Marie Taglioni (her second appearance); Pas de Deux, by M. Paul Taglioni and Mlle. Corallia Rosati; Deutsche Rheia, Valse des Pages, et des Demoiselles d'Honneur, by the Corps de Ballet. Fifth Tableau: Pas de M. O'Dr and Mlle. Corallia Rosati; Ballade des Halbardiers, Madame Petit Stephan, and Mlle. Honoré, Mlle. Cassan; Threnozet, Berlin, Juliette, L'Amoureux, and the Corps de Ballet; Pas de L'Inconnu, Mlle. Corallia Rosati, Madame Petit Stephan, and M. Paul Taglioni.

Doors open at seven o'clock; the opera to commence at half-past seven.

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It is necessary to state that, in the original letter, the words in small capitals were underlined with a double line, and that in Italics with a single one.

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"It is with real pleasure that I hasten to inform you of this, and take this occasion to offer you the assurance of my entire regard.

"To MR. DENT.

"BRUNNOW."

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"St. Petersburg, Jan. 9, 1847.—No. 140.

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"I regard it as a most agreeable duty to express to you, sir, my most sincere and grateful thanks for the particular care which you have taken in the co-operation of this scientific enterprise, whose success is owing to the strictness and the distinguished work of your Chronometers.

"I beg you, sir, to accept the assurance of my best respects.

(Signed)

BERG,

"General Quartermaster of the Chief Staff of His Imperial Majesty, General Adjutant.

"To MR. DENT, Artist, London."

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